



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-104
Tuesday
31 May 1994

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Uruguayan Minister Views Cairns Group Meeting
PY2705233194 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish
21 May 94 p 21

[Text] "The Cairns Group will continue functioning but with goals, and because there are no schedules we must take the priorities on the basis of the problems that crop up. But we have determined everything that refers to the implementation and schedules contained in the final document of the GATT's Uruguay Round." This was said by Pedro Saravia, our country's livestock, agriculture, and fisheries minister, when he evaluated the 14th [Cairns Group meeting], which ended on 20 May in Montevideo, as "very positive."

It is his opinion that "there are a series of signals throughout the world that indicate that the group must continue its functions," in addition "it must have the capability of answering immediately" because "the first Cairns Group meeting took place after the signing of the Marrakech document."

Saravia reaffirmed: "The work that was carried out was very important as an element of pressure, and it was a way in which criteria were unified, thus we can convey to the major powers a very different position from the one they already have." But the Cairns Group's functioning "is informal and has its limitations."

The minister considered: "The illegitimacy that world trade, meaning subsidies and dumping [preceding word in English], were some of the factors on which we have had to work, and in one way or another they now are being felt."

Undoubtedly these are not the only elements, "but the world and the great powers have had to cede some things, including the fact that they have had to sit down and discuss new budgets, and even though the dismantling will take place within 10 to 15 years, it can be considered very positive."

Saravia stated that even with these ups and downs, the Cairns Group "countries have played a very important role."

The minister, who was the meeting's host, said that during the meeting "the code of conduct was not

debated, but everything pertaining to honesty and loyalty regarding procedures was debated."

Although it has no legal status and does not have the means to act as a referee in controversies that can crop up in the trade sector, "the positions that emerged within the group's 14 member countries are a counterweight when there is a business deal with distortions."

Chilean Delegate on Meeting

PY2805003294 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish
21 May 94 p 21

[Text] Chilean Agriculture Under Secretary Alejandro Gutierrez said: "Chile is very interested that the Cairns Group continue to function because we believe its participation in the GATT Uruguay Round was very successful."

Now that the GATT Uruguay Round has concluded, the Chileans want to see "how it is applied in the rest of the world, and this is why the Cairns Group must continue to function as a base for the dissemination of information and for action for other countries, especially the industrialized countries."

The special Chilean mission continues in Uruguay to overcome the problems that have occurred with the export of Uruguayan meat. These problems pertain to the expiration of the operation permits for the meat packing plants and not to problems in the quality of the product, as was mentioned originally.

In this respect, Gutierrez said that in his country "there is a new law and this is why the rules and regulations are quite strict," and this is also why "the same standard [preceding word in English] that is being applied to those who supply us from other countries is now being applied to the cattlemen here."

It is the view of Chilean authorities that "different rules and regulations cannot be applied to the suppliers," and this why "the Chilean agricultural mission is now working in Uruguay to draft a report."

He explained that Chile wants "the typifying rules and regulations to be complied with, and that the political agreements between the two countries also be observed."

Andean Group External Tariff To Go Into Effect

PY3005215094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0144 GMT
28 May 94

[Text] Lima, 27 May (EFE)—In Lima today the Cartagena Agreement Board announced that Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela have decided to implement the Andean Common External Tariff (AEC) as of 31 December 1994.

Representatives of the three countries managed to overcome disagreements of a conceptual and technical nature and undertook serious commitments in this direction during the meeting held by the Andean Group Commission, the highest level organ of the Andean integration process, during the past four days in this capital.

The commitment is contained in a decision draft, as the integration mandates are called, proposing a tariff structure and preferential treatment for Bolivia and Ecuador, as well as mechanisms for unifying in time the products that are still unable to fully adopt the AEC by 31 December 1994.

The project also includes a system for the implementation of agreements reached by Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela in the automobile sector through a sectorial

agreement, and the commitment to adopt specific variable rights for agricultural products affected by the variations in international prices.

It also includes strict mechanisms to restore competitiveness when one of the member countries is affected by the application of tariffs other than the AEC after 31 December 1994, according to a press communique issued by the Cartagena Agreement Board.

According to the communique, the decision draft implements a measure that consolidates the Customs Union [Union Aduanera] and establishes clear mechanisms regulating competition between the member countries.

The Andean Group has established four tariff levels of 5, 10, 15, and 20 percent, depending on the merchandise involved.

Peru is currently under a special regime within the Andean Group, approved in April, that allows it to temporarily regulate its trade in the region through bilateral agreements until the rest of the member countries gradually eliminate the protectionist tariffs they maintain in various economic fields.

Peru, according to the mentioned system, continues as an observer at the meetings of the commission designed to discuss the AEC, and is authorized to maintain tariffs at 15 and 20 percent.

Cuba

Envoys Meet, Analyze Belgian Embassy Takeover

PA3105012094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2344 GMT
30 May 94

[Text] Havana, 30 May (EFE)—This afternoon, European Union [EU] ambassadors to Cuba met to analyze the conflict triggered by 114 Cubans who took over the Belgian Embassy on 28 May and who are requesting political asylum.

None of the diplomats wanted to make the slightest comment at the end of the meeting, which lasted over two hours and took place at the residence of Greek Ambassador Marinos Raptopoulos, who represents the country that heads the EU.

Meanwhile, this afternoon, there seemed to be no new developments at the Belgian ambassador's residence. The police, which are visibly increasing the number of agents as the night unfolds, cordoned off the diplomatic residence.

Some of those who took over the house could be seen from the street at the windows of a house adjacent to the ambassador's residence. Some very young children could also be seen at play in the garden.

Official sources emphasized that the negotiations between the two governments continue and that the Cuban Government has guaranteed that these people will not be punished when they leave the embassy. They will be able to start the legal procedures to leave the country.

Occupants Must Leave Peacefully

PA3005193794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1736 GMT
30 May 94

[Text] Havana, 30 May (EFE)—The Cuban and Belgium Governments fully concur that the 114 persons who stormed the Belgian ambassador's residence in Havana on Saturday must leave peacefully, officials sources at the Cuban Foreign Ministry [Minrex] told EFE.

"That is the fundamental agreement. They must leave peacefully because they did not enter in a legal manner," a top official who declined to be identified stated. The source indicated that these persons "will not be punished for breaking into the embassy," but noted that the Belgian authorities have not provided Cuba with the list of persons who are there and that "therefore we do not know who they are and whether there are fugitives or delinquents among them."

This official indicated that today, the Minrex will reply "in writing" to the written request for guarantees and other matters submitted by the Belgium side but did not want to venture an opinion on when the incident would end.

"What we cannot allow," he said, "is the transgression of the law or the transgression of the extraterritoriality of an embassy to leave the country, because that is not good for us or anyone."

Regarding the police deployment around the ambassador's residence—more discrete during the day but highly noticeable at night—he said the Belgian authorities requested it to prevent future entries. "That is logical, and, at any rate, we would have provided it," he noted.

Asked about the food supply for the occupants, including 24 children, he said that was the Belgian ambassador's problem. "We told him," he said, "the Cubalese state enterprise that supplies the diplomatic corps and foreigners was in a position to provide the necessary food."

In fact, it is still a mystery how this large a number of people have been fed since Saturday as the police and neighbors have said that no movement in or out of the embassy has been detected, except by the ambassador and one of the 114 occupants who left last night. Official sources said he was a young man and that he left the embassy voluntarily but did not disclose his name.

This morning, when approached by a couple of newsmen while leaving his residence, Belgian Ambassador Paul Vermeirsch said all had slept well and did not want to comment on how they were fed.

This is the most serious incident that has taken place in a diplomatic mission since the 1980 events at the Peruvian Embassy when over 10,000 Cubans invaded it after the Havana government decided to withdraw the guards from the embassy. Previously, Peru had granted political asylum to more than 10 citizens who had forced their way into the embassy in an incident in which one policeman was killed.

This time, the group that apparently had gathered in a park in front of the mission took advantage of someone opening the door to storm the grounds. Police sources told EFE that there were five guards on duty but that they were overwhelmed by the crowd. Meanwhile, the rest of the embassies remain with their usual guard, which varies from two to five agents according to the size of the building.

Press Release on Occupation

FL2905212694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision
Networks in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 May 94

[From the "Sunday Supplemental NTV" newscast]

[Text] It has been reported in a press release that a group of people illegally entered the residence of His Excellency Paul Vermeirsch, the Belgian ambassador to Cuba, on the morning of 28 May in an attempt to push for their departure from Cuba.

This new incident is another consequence of the calls to illegality made by counterrevolutionary stations broadcasting from Miami and, basically, the result of the

restrictive policies implemented by U.S. immigration authorities who continue to block legal procedures for people wanting to emigrate to the United States.

These people resort to illegal and even violent means to depart the country after repeatedly failing to obtain visas. The revolutionary government, which does not obstruct those who comply with the legal procedures for departing Cuba, has reiterated, on several occasions, its commitment to not allowing the use of illegal break-ins into diplomatic missions in Cuba as a mean of leaving the country.

Ministry Reports Escape Attempt Via 'Yankee' Base

FL2805131194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 94

[Communique issued by the Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry in Havana on 27 May; from the NTV newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] There was an attempted hijacking of a fishing vessel in Guantanamo Bay at 0910 on 27 May. The courageous action of the boat captain and Interior Ministry guards thwarted the hijacking, conducted by five individuals who work at that fishing facility. An Interior Ministry soldier was shot and injured by the hijackers, who were trying to leave Cuba illegally via the Yankee naval base. The hijackers tried to reach open seas once their initial plan failed. Two of the hijackers have been arrested, while the search for the other three continues.

Escape Attempt Thwarted

PA2805022294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0142 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Havana, 27 May (EFE)—The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces has reported that a soldier was wounded on 27 May when he thwarted an attempt to steal a vessel in Guantanamo Bay, eastern Cuba, by five persons who planned to leave the country through the U.S. military base located there. These people tried to steal a fishing boat but the reaction of the owner and the guards thwarted their effort, the source added.

In the action, a soldier was wounded "by shots fired by one of the attackers," who were trying to illegally leave the country via the U.S. military installation. A police report stated that the attackers jumped into the sea and so far two of them have been arrested and the other three are still at large.

On 17 April, Raul Castro, defense minister and second in Cuba's political hierarchy, admitted that tranquillity prevailed on both sides of the border last year and so far this year. "Our determination is to continue doing our part to maintain this climate," he added. Castro said that this is the reason why all sorts of measures will continue to be applied "to frustrate the crazy attempts of those who plan to leave the country by this means." He recalled that this is a "highly mined" area, and thus,

escape attempts are not only "crazy but an act of provocation against the country's security."

Government Postpones Increase in Fuel Prices

PA3105040094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0245 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Havana, 30 May (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Government announced tonight that it will postpone the increase in the price of fuel that was to become effective on Wednesday, as established in an official agreement.

According to a communique released by the Finance and Prices Ministry [name of ministry as received], the decision was made because private automobile owners still have gasoline ration cards that were distributed months ago.

The government decided that "during June, prices and sale conditions for such ration cards will be the same as those that were in effect prior" to the 20 May official agreement, the communique noted. The Finance and Price Ministry, however, did not indicate if the price increase will go in effect in July or at a later date.

Private automobile owners have restricted access to gasoline through ration cards that are distributed by gasoline distributors periodically. Up to 1991, consumers received cards that allowed them to purchase up to 2.30 liters of gasoline each quarter. The quota has dropped progressively since then however. Ration cards for 20 liters were distributed in April and ration cards for this month were for a similar quantity.

Premium gasoline will rise from 38 cents to 1.20 pesos per liter and regular gasoline will go from 28 cents to 1 peso. A Cuban peso is equivalent to one dollar but the local currency is exchanged at a rate of 100 pesos per dollar at the black market.

In addition to gasoline, the government approved increases for the prices of cigarettes and rum, as well as all transportation fares.

PRC Demands U.S. Lift All Sanctions

FL2805015394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 94

[From the NTV newscast]

[Text] The PRC Foreign Ministry has demanded that all U.S. sanctions imposed on that country be lifted. The demand was made after the United States renewed its most-favored-nation trading status with the PRC. The Foreign Ministry underscored in a declaration issued in the Chinese capital after Washington announced its decision that the renovation will create favorable conditions for strengthening and expanding bilateral economic and trade relations. Before the Clinton administration's announcement on trade with the PRC, U.S. businessmen had warned that interrupting trade relations would cost U.S. consumers more than \$10 billion.

Diplomatic sources in Beijing do not rule out that the existing ties could be reinforced by a visit by U.S. President Clinton to Beijing sometime this year.

Commentary Decries U.S. PRC 'Double Standards'

FL2705203194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 27 May 94

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] I would like to read one of today's AFP reports before commenting or analyzing:

Washington, AFP—Thursday, President Bill Clinton announced the renewal of most-favored-nation trading status to the PRC, although some sanctions against Beijing were upheld, primarily the ban on importing weapons and ammunition. The U.S. leader stressed that he had opted to separate the issue of granting commercial benefits to the PRC from Washington's previously stipulated conditions on the PRC's respect for human rights.

As you know, the United States has appointed itself the human rights judge, except, of course, within its own borders. They sanction, however, in accordance with their own judgment, whoever does or does not respect human rights everywhere else in the world. The world is certainly full of travesties and of governments which commit brutal crimes, but Washington does not say a word as long as these governments or countries are U.S. clients. Something similar occurs with dozens of spurious elections on several continents.

The PRC Government has strongly and categorically rejected the accusations Washington has dared to make regarding human rights in the PRC. The PRC's arguments have not convinced the U.S. Government. In other words, Clinton and his administration believe deep down, above all, that human rights violations do exist. I repeat: This is according to the exclusive viewpoint of the United States. Clinton, however, decided to maintain the commercial benefits, yet another example of double standards of that pharisaical type of U.S. policies not grounded on principles but on the most coarse and pragmatic of arrangements.

On the other hand, the final resolution of the Uruguay Round of GATT, as you may remember, called for trade incentives and not for protectionism or blockades. Nor did it authorize any government to unilaterally make itself into a judge of human rights and trade, especially when that government uses the noble cause of human rights as a grotesque instrument of its policies and for its own benefit. Judges with double standards pervert justice.

Commentary: Gore Meeting Ends in 'Disillusion'

PA2705134794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 May 94

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The meeting between the six Central American presidents and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore has resulted in nothing more than disillusion. The Central American presidents were disappointed with the so-called Tegucigalpa minisummit because Gore rejected any links between their countries and NAFTA in the short-, mid-, or long-term. It is true that the presidents had extremely high expectations for this meeting, and with good reason. To join in an agreement of this nature has enormous significance for a region still suffering the effects of a 10-year war and ever-increasing poverty levels.

Although the United States promised to open its markets to textile imports from Central America, this will only happen after each Central American country complies with a number of requirements and conditions imposed by the United States. These conditions include approving a series of labor laws, creating laws to protect intellectual property rights and copyrights, establishing regulations to protect the environment, and complying with NAFTA's rules of origin governing the textile sector.

The foreign debt, a paramount issue that determines whether Central American countries are able to advance economically and which precludes the region from undertaking sustainable development because of all of the resources it consumes, was not discussed at the Tegucigalpa minisummit. We must recall that Central America and the Caribbean had accumulated a \$37-billion foreign debt by the end of 1993. For countries like Nicaragua and El Salvador, the foreign debt is an extremely onerous burden because these nations have so many economic, political, and social problems resulting from their prolonged wars.

Leading Central American newspapers have criticized the presidential meeting and stress that Vice President Gore did not make any clear references to topics of enormous regional interest, such as the fight against poverty and the often-mentioned regional incorporation into NAFTA. Although Hondurans did take advantage of Vice President Gore's visit to display posters across the conference hall eloquently asking for the withdrawal of U.S. soldiers from their territory, Gore did not seem to care at all. Many analysts have agreed that this meeting tried to exalt the virtues of the so-called hemispheric summit that will be hosted by President Clinton and which seeks to become a panacea for this part of the world. The presidential summit that will be held in Miami in December has been revived by President Clinton precisely at a time when the defense and recovery strategies proposed at the various Ibero-American summits are now in the process of being consolidated.

It appears that the Miami meeting is aimed at chastising countries looking for a social model different from that of the United States, and it seems the session is also designed to remind the region that the only country that can convene meetings of this nature is the powerful

North American nation. The hemispheric summit may end up being as disappointing as the Tegucigalpa minisummit, where the U.S. Vice President simply voiced some promises, all of which were tied to demands that are nearly impossible to meet.

Central America, a region with a population of 30 million and still burdened by social injustice and military predominance, urgently needs specific development projects, rather than promises. In this sense, the visit by the U.S. Vice President was fruitless.

Fidel Castro Varadero News Conference

FL2805005194 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0035 GMT 26 May 94

[News conference by President Fidel Castro with participants in the 15th International Tourism Convention in Varadero on 20 May—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] [passage indistinct] What is better? To have them speak first?

[Unidentified speaker] Commander, I suggest that you answer some of their questions.

[Castro] This is like arriving to take a test without having studied the subject.

[Unidentified speaker] Professors do not have to study the subject.

[Castro] That is so for professors, but I have been a student all my life and have always felt like a student whenever I have been before an audience.

[Unidentified speaker] Commander, I am from Argentina's Tele-C News...

[Castro, interrupting] Yes, but the question from Argentina was left unfinished. [laughter]

[Unidentified speaker] I am always on the way. Commander...

[Castro, interrupting] Let me stand. I cannot see who is speaking. [applause]

[Unidentified speaker] Commander, I wanted to ask for the [words indistinct] of Argentina: What role do you believe tourism plays for Cuba at this historic junction?

[Castro] I believe that for everyone [words indistinct]. I hope it will play a special role and must say sincerely that we are prioritizing it while maintaining other sectors, despite everything bad and good tourism is said to bring. I say, as some say, because we do not know anything about it. We are now beginning to learn. In general, I must stress that I have seen good things. I do not know if tourism is categorized as very good, outstanding, good, regular, fair, or bad. I have yet to see the bad tourism category. Rather, I have seen tourists falling into the outstanding and good categories.

Anything that helps the economy today is enormously important to Cuba. This is one of the most influential sectors. This sector has maintained a growth rate of a little over 30 percent annually. Our future success will depend heavily on our ability to work and, particularly, on our ability to attain your cooperation worldwide.

I believe we have the potential. I believe we have great tourism potential and an educated people. We have a highly developed spirit of hospitality, as well as the will to do things right.

However, I will answer your question specifically by saying that tourism occupies one of the topmost places at this historic junction in the country's life and finances.

[Unidentified speaker] Thank you.

[BBC correspondent Rose Hays, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] I have been at the Varadero convention for a week now. There have been many debates on tourism industry profits. It is said that right now it has probably reached a phase where tourism profits are surpassing sugar industry profits. It has been predicted that the tourism industry will surpass sugar as Cuba's main source of revenue. Do you agree?

[Castro] Yes, at least that is our hope. We hope the tourism industry will overcome the sugar industry. I have been pondering this. The large-scale sugar industry and tourism seem to be two difficult things to reconcile. We have almost 11 million people and a little over 110,000 square kilometers of land. I believe we can do both things right. We have hundreds of kilometers of beach and thousands of kilometers of coast, some of it nestled between the sea and the mountains. In other words, we have great tourism potential. However, we still have great sugar potential.

Other industries certainly tend to surpass the sugar industry in modern times. For example, Puerto Rico produced 1 million tons of sugar about 30 years ago yet does not produce enough sugar today to satisfy national demand. Many sugar fields were used to grow other crops, to meet urban growth demands, or to establish industrial parks. Above all, the sugar industry is very difficult and entails extremely hard work.

The introduction of slavery in the Caribbean was followed by the development of the sugar industry in the tropical heat. It is such hard work that the native population was practically unable to do it. This is what gave rise to the macabre idea of enslaving Africans to make them work in the fields here, in the tropics, because they were better suited to that hard work in sugarcane, as well coffee, although coffee is not as hard. Sugarcane was the hardest crop because the harvesting and weeding had to be done by hand. However, the sugarcane harvest demands great effort even if you improve working and living conditions. Also, it has a cyclic nature. It does not guarantee year-long jobs for everyone. This results in a large emigration of the labor force from the sugar fields to other activities.

Slavery was allegedly abolished at the turn of the century, yet tens of thousands of Caribbean people emigrated from Jamaica, Haiti, and other Caribbean islands following the great boom the sugar industry experienced after the U.S. intervention, when hundreds of millions of dollars—which had a greater value then—were invested to develop the sugar industry. A new form of slavery ensued because the Jamaicans and Haitians who came to Cuba to work in the sugarcane lived under similarly harsh conditions. It is very hard work.

I have noticed that sugar production declines as tourism develops in the Caribbean islands. The work force transfers to tourism. There are islands of every size, from 400 square kilometers to 1,000 square kilometers and every other size in between. I have noticed the incompatibility of these industries. Boosting the tourism industry has resulted in a decline of the sugar industry in those countries.

Cuba should be able to maintain a highly vital sugar industry through mechanization and chemical resources once we are again under normal conditions and given the available land area, population, machinery, herbicides, and automation processes at sugar mills. This is what we plan to do. However, there is a sugar mill nearby which is about empty of personnel. Almost every worker is here, in Varadero. Tourism work is not as hard and is more appealing than agriculture and sugarcane. Yet, I believe we have a large enough population to maintain both industries. However, tourism's potential, keeping in mind that we have thousands of kilometers of virgin beaches, is much higher than the sugar industry's potential.

If we fully develop our tourism potential, undoubtedly, apart from other factors, the tourism industry will render much higher revenues to Cuba than the sugar industry, even if this incompatibility did not exist between both sectors. In addition, the tourism market is growing much more than the sugar market. I have yet to hear anyone say that sunshine makes you fat. [laughter]

Unfortunately, people are going around saying that sugar is fattening and all those kinds of things, all those calumnies against sugar. [laughter]

However, tourism is healthy and has great prestige. It seems that tourism is the faster growing industry in the world. I have heard many people say this.

[Unidentified speaker] Once again, for Argentina: Regarding the U.S. blockade, is the Clinton administration as severe as previous administrations?

[Castro] I would have to ask you to define severity.

[Unidentified speaker] Argentina is well aware of the U.S. position, which is not fair to the Cuban people. This is why I ask the question. You raised this issue last year, when I had the opportunity to meet you and the Council of State. I would like to know your thoughts on this today.

[Castro] I could say that Clinton maintains the same severity, because he maintains the blockade, the Torricelli Law, everything. However, he does so in a softer manner and with less threatening and less bellicose words. But the severity of U.S. policy toward Cuba has not changed. It remains the same.

[Rene Capriles, correspondent for Brazil's ECO RIO magazine] Commander, I had the pleasure of hearing you at the Rio summit. Your address was the most applauded, even by President Bush, which was a surprise, as you might remember.

You just came from a conference on island-states and biodiversity. Biodiversity plays an important role worldwide when it comes to genetic patents, on which Cuba has broad experience. What are Cuba's prospects in this regard, considering tourism, island-states, and the creation of the Caribbean common market in the future?

[Castro] The analysis of environmental problems was good at the Barbados meeting. Both the environment and sustainable development were discussed. We noticed in Rio that island-states are highly anxious about this. I noticed that many countries are highly anxious about the prospects that global...[pauses] changes in weather patterns and the greenhouse effect. Changes in weather patterns mean more droughts, more intense hurricanes, and other climate phenomena which are generally disastrous for those small nations.

While a hurricane in Florida damages a very small portion of the territory, a hurricane on St. Vincent or on any other small Caribbean island—such as St. Lucia or Jamaica—covers 100 percent of the island's territory and can destroy everything. The rest of the nation can help Florida repair the hurricane damage. Islands face territorial limitations and serious communication problems. A man from Santiago de Cuba was complaining because there are no direct flights between Mexico and Santiago de Cuba. Yet, there are no flights between many Caribbean islands. There are no flight routes. Sea transportation is also very difficult. These countries experience diverse difficulties for their development.

They are affected the most, environmentally speaking. Many of those islands, particularly those in the Pacific, would disappear if the water were to rise four meters. It would be a global disaster because it would affect every port's infrastructure. However, certain countries would disappear altogether. Certain countries, such as Bangladesh, with a population of over 100 million people, would disappear almost completely, despite being one of the most densely populated countries.

Of course, this explains the high anxiety experienced by these states and why it was decided at the Rio summit to hold an international conference of small island-states. There was an increased awareness of the problem in Barbados, more of an awareness than in Rio. However, the Rio summit and the efforts of the nongovernmental organizations were extremely significant in creating an

awareness of this problem. I dare affirm 90 percent of the governments of the world were not aware of ecological problems.

This was the first time that dozens of heads of state had a chance to think about these problems and were compelled to think about them. The representatives of the most industrialized nations also had to speak and explain things in Rio. Consumerist societies are the main culprits of the destructive phenomena that has ravished the environment in past decades. They consume an overwhelming majority of energy and fossil fuel and have poisoned the rivers, lakes, and seas the most. They have poisoned the air, have created acid rain, and have increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. They are creating serious, real problems, including extremely serious problems with weather pattern changes.

This awareness is somewhat late. Certain damages are already irreversible. The amounts of fluorocarbons released have damaged the ozone layer and will continue to do so for a long time. We must ask ourselves if there is still time to reverse this trend. However, since we cannot afford to be pessimistic, the least we can do is fight hard to increase awareness so that measures are adopted as soon as possible to solve these problems.

You might remember from Rio that the U.S. Government objected and put up the most resistance to the accords. It was practically isolated. I must add that this is not the case with the current administration. This administration is more concerned with environmental issues. The U.S. vice president has a book out on the environment. I believe he is quite committed to environmental issues. The United States, the number one consumer of energy and natural resources, is called upon to play a very important role here.

This is why any change in the U.S. Government's position must seem as positive. This had not taken place yet at the time of the Rio summit but was hinted at in the U.S. representative's address in Rio and noticed again during the Barbados conference.

We must fight harder and harder and harder if we want to avoid the catastrophe of incalculable magnitude toward which we are heading right now. This is an issue that can be discussed at length. A great many variables enter into play because the development of various countries can differ so greatly. I pointed out in Barbados that Bangladesh's per capita income is \$220, while Switzerland's is \$34,000. [Words indistinct] 1 billion tons of carbon is consumed. How much more do the Chinese people need to attain a gross income 10 times higher? India has similar problems. These are very complex, acute problems. How will global resources be distributed? How will development be apportioned? Will we just decide to leave developing nations as they are while developed nations continue to develop?

Mankind must exert great effort and revise certain theories. I hinted at this in my 15-minute address on the problems of inequitable worldwide development. What

does the future hold for a society that can only survive by growing and can only grow by depleting the world's natural resources? That question has no answer. They are condemned to grow. This is why when one speaks of sustainable development, no one knows what one is talking about. We ought to speak of societies that can sustain themselves or that can survive as they are by recycling and reducing levels of carbon dioxide and other polluting gases and not by continuing to deplete natural resources.

Neoliberalism is in vogue today. However, we are not talking politics here, nor do we want to discuss politics. Yet, it is in fashion. Neoliberalism is based on the concept of continuous growth to prevent a disaster. However, continuous growth will result in a bigger disaster. We must focus primarily on the growth of those countries further behind, the poorest nations. We must do a better job distributing the world's natural resources. We must distribute the world's wealth better and more equally. Otherwise, the problems will not be solved. Yet, we cannot discuss this further here nor turn this into a conference on extremely complex philosophical issues. We risk missing the mark regarding tourism.

[Faustino Castilla, director of Spain's VIAJE Y TOURISMO magazine] How can capitalist and socialist views coexist in the tourism industry? Unfortunately, I remember what the Cuban tourism industry had to endure in the '50s. That was not like tourism today but was tourism, nevertheless. How can both doctrines coexist today?

I would also like to present to you an example of Habanera, a typically Cuban-Spanish form of music that symbolizes Cuban-Spanish unity. [applause]

[Castro] He asks: How can the two views coexist? That of tourism and what else? Within tourism? You refer to joint investments, right?

Unfortunately, I do not have Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, or Vladimir Ilich Lenin by my side to help me answer your question. Yet, I believe, referring even to the founders of socialism, Lenin for example, at the time of the famous Bolshevik revolution, had even considered the idea of establishing capitalism under the control of the proletariat. Lenin's original idea was to establish socialism in that country, which was one of the most industrially backward, a country besieged and blockaded. Lenin finally came up with the idea of developing capitalism in Russia, not under the control of capitalists but under the control of workers. There were other ideas among the political leaders of that era: The impossibility of establishing socialism in only one country. This was discussed extensively.

We must add that among the CPSU's founding concepts was the idea that the revolution was going to take place simultaneously in every industrialized nation. History has still not proven that that was wrong. Although, I will keep my opinion regarding what has happened in those countries, there is no doubt that building socialism in

one single country, entirely surrounded by industrialized capitalist countries [words indistinct]. Their accomplishments were, in my opinion, truly extraordinary. They will be praised someday once this contemporary period is over. They conceived with a highly dialectic sense and flexibility how to build socialism.

We have not relinquished the idea of building socialism. We have not relinquished our goals. We are simply adapting to our current reality and acknowledging that under such exceptional circumstances, following the collapse of the socialist bloc and the disappearance of the USSR, our goals cannot be the building of socialism but the defense of the fatherland, the revolution, and accomplishments of socialism.

The development of any country requires capital, technology, and markets which we do not have at this time. These are far from ideal conditions. We are no longer dealing with building socialism in a single country but on a tiny island lost somewhere in the Caribbean, lost geographically but not politically.

Tourism provided the first opportunity to create joint associations and to introduce foreign capital in Cuba. We need all three things—capital, technology, and markets—to develop tourism in Cuba. We did not hesitate on the need to promote its development. We have been talking about tourism, which is a very typical example. There are many other fields where the same is happening or could be happening, like the oil sector.

We will never exploit the oil beneath the Varadero peninsula. We do not want to...[pauses] A well had already been drilled nearby, but we closed it. Estimates have been made on the amount of fuel underground, but Varadero's tourism development and oil extraction are incompatible. Developing Varadero's tourism will yield much more than the extraction of the oil underneath it.

There are diverse positive indicators regarding the presence of oil. However, we need seismological research with advanced technology, well-drilling, and capital investment. We do not have the capital or the technology to exploit these resources. How could we do this if not by associating with foreign companies and capital? It would not be socialist but stupid to turn a blind eye to this reality. Nothing would be accomplished if we did that. We would be left stranded, would fail to fulfill the goal of defending the fatherland, the revolution, and the accomplishments of socialism. I have given two examples.

As we set off down this path—free of dogma, armed with flexibility, and keeping clearly in mind our goals and the means to attain them—we have been making this overture, which continues to expand. I believe our goals and the means being used to attain them are perfectly in keeping with one another. The goals we are seeking are perfectly in keeping with the means we are using to achieve them.

To tell the truth, it is very important that there be trust. We have taken great pains to ensure that we have created

trust among those who invest in Cuba and are giving investors advantages they do not get in many other parts of the world so as to make investing here truly attractive.

[Words indistinct] show that those first experiences were successful. We must calculate how much the capital yields in each European country. How much in Italy? How much in Switzerland? How much in France? How much must be paid in rent? How much does capital invested in Costa Brava, Spain, yield? How much in the Canary Islands? We must find ways to make capital yield more in Cuba than it does in Costa Brava, the Canary Islands, or any other country.

All in all, it is a competition. I believe that we are in a position to compete and that Cuba has some advantages. As the managers of this hotel can attest, cooperation between the population and the investors is high because we have persuaded the population of the need to take these steps, these measures, and to make these investments.

I want to stress to you that our people are socialist. Harbor no doubts: Our people cannot return to capitalism. However, they understand perfectly well all the measures we are taking in this sphere and that the associations with capitalist companies are in response to the reality of today's world. Thus, we have growing ties with multinationals. We do. This is a reality and a power in today's world. No one in today's world can do without multinationals, because their power continues to increase. They have more power, even more than governments. The power of governments is declining and that of multinationals increasing. We are surrounded by capitalists in this world.

We are told in geography class that an island is a piece of land surrounded by water on all sides. If someone were to ask us at present to define socialism in Cuba, the answer would be: A noble, courageous, heroic effort surrounded by capitalism on all sides. [laughter]

We cannot ignore capitalism any more than we can ignore the sea around us. Besides—and this was pointed out by Marx—capitalism has made significant contributions to mankind's economic development, such as technological and scientific contributions and a great development of the productive forces. We could add other things that were unknown at Marx's time: management capability, [words indistinct], use of computers in administration and management. We could add many other contributions capitalism has made to mankind.

Also, it would be stupid of me not to make use of any useful experience capitalism can contribute. This is how we see what we are doing, without relinquishing our principles, goals, or ideals. I believe Cuba is not the only country doing this. The Chinese people are doing it and have been doing it much longer than we. The Vietnamese people are doing it and have had very significant successes. However, history will have the last word. New paths are always strewn with obstacles, problems, and

difficulties. Our intelligence and wisdom should help us overcome all these difficulties.

There are many other difficulties. There are difficulties that are not political, ideological, or philosophical in nature. Other difficulties could be of a moral nature.

I was explaining to the comrades and have at times explained to the Cuban people that we cannot afford to be pure within a glass case. Purity is not as praiseworthy if one is alone, isolated, unpolluted, free of contact with any virus, germ, or bacteria. Virtue blooms in the struggle against vice. These methods or things we are introducing might bring with them certain vices, yet this can serve to develop our virtue.

Many have questioned the influence tourism might have upon the minds of our people, upon their basic traits. These matters have come up. However, experience is teaching us that we can develop our country perfectly well. Cuba's ties, culture, and contact with the world are growing. We will be all the more pure if we are able to preserve our virtues amid the contamination certain things might bring with them. I believe we will do so in this effort we are making. It will be, above all, a test.

I once used a metaphor but later had to recant because it was wrong. I said that virtue could not be preserved in a cloister, a convent. Several nuns immediately wrote me and told me the remark was unfair. I agreed with them and no longer speak of cloisters or convents. I speak of ivory towers. [laughter, applause]

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] From what magazine?

[Unidentified speaker] (SUARA), a magazine with a circulation of over 300,000 and [words indistinct]. I will not ask any questions because my questions were answered by the minister. I asked if Cuba was ready to welcome tourists and so on. As you have said...

[Castro, interrupting] What did he answer? Yes?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes.

[Castro] He lied to your readers. [laughter]

Did he say we were ready or learning?

[Unidentified speaker] No, no. This is my first trip to Cuba. I want to take this opportunity to do something very personal or my daughter will never forgive me: I must tell you that she admires you greatly. She is 15 years old, and we have explained to her that Cuba is the only socialist country left in the world. She asked me to tell you that she is at your service for whatever you might need and that you can always count on her help. [applause]

She has written many letters to you that remain on her desk. I have explained to her that it is not easy to reach you. However, I will not leave Cuba without asking you to please sign this for her and to take our picture.

Otherwise, she would never forgive me. I am sorry, but this is my only chance. I hope the others will forgive me. [applause]

[Castro] I will take a chance and honor your request, although I can foresee about 350 more like them.-..[pause]

Those noble feelings of solidarity encourage us along, in this struggle. Our struggle is not easy. Not everyone understands it. I have wanted to talk about it. The fact that there are so many good and noble people in the world fills us with energy and is an extraordinary boost to continuing to struggle, resist, and triumph. Thank you very much. [applause]

[(Pablo Amalce), Spanish national radio editor and deputy director of VIAJEROS magazine's Cuba section] [Words indistinct] in the world, the matter of image as regards tourism. A country's image is vital. You know that it is oversimplified sometimes. There is also the pitfall of putting forth an image currently being used by several other countries, resulting in a failure to present the unique characteristics of a destination.

What do you—the president of the Republic of Cuba, a great communicator, and someone who knows how to rouse and motivate diverse audiences well—think Cuba's tourism image ought to be?

[Castro] I do not know what a communicator is. That is a technical term used nowadays regarding television, radio, and other such resources. I have always relied on the same thing: speaking very frankly and trying to explain things as I see them. If I do not understand something, I do not attempt to explain it. I have endured enough of that in school already. I had teachers who explained things in the books that they did not understand, could not understand either.

First, we could say that Cuba presents the image of a beautiful country. It has the natural, physical conditions. Columbus first took notice of this. It is a proven fact that when he arrived in Cuba, he said it was the most beautiful land human eyes had ever seen. I do not know if Columbus ever said this to a woman, but it is a fact that he said it about Cuba. We have an image as a country of extreme natural beauty. However, its people are more important than the land. Cuba's image is that of an hospitable, warm, generous, fraternal nation. We want the image of a morally and physically healthy nation. We want the image of an organized country, the image of a country which protects the environment, the air, the water, with pure waters, pure air, a welcoming climate. Of course, we are a tropical country. Many visitors come from frigid places, particularly in winter. They come to escape the snow and cold weather or the like.

We do not want to be seen as a country with gambling or drugs or prostitution. We have the image of a country with a high level of culture and capability [words indistinct] and pleasant the stay of our visitors. We want to

educate the people on this profession of hospitality so that services can attain levels equal or superior to those found in any other country. We want a tourism of the people. Everyone wants the tourists to pay more money for greater luxury. Of course, we will have some services that will also serve those who can afford higher prices. However, we also want tourism to be a source of knowledge, contact, and brotherly ties among the peoples.

We also want the world to see Cuba as an honest country, a moral country. This is highly cherished by us because we know that in the world such qualities are not abundant. Finally, I will borrow from the Bible and Adam and Eve, who are said to have been very happy in Eden: We want the world to see Cuba as a terrestrial paradise. [applause]

[Ed Caprice, director of Berlin's Tropicana tourist company] Mr. President, it is not always easy for a small tour operator who is not under the German tourism conglomerates' control to bring tourism to Cuba. However, I do not want to dwell on the difficulties but on the happy moments. One such occasion took place recently, when a group of over 40 people came to Santiago de Cuba. All of their misgivings were cleared up by the time they returned to Berlin. Some of them asked before departing Berlin: Can we really travel to Cuba, given the current difficulties in supplying the population? However, they were all very happy and taken by the tropical beauty, the hospitality you mentioned, the revolutionary spirit of the Cuban people [words indistinct]. The oldest in the group—an 84-year-old man—said that the trip to Cuba was the happiest time in his entire life.

Mr. President, I would like you to accept the catalog we have put together for Cuba with all our love. Thank you, very much. [applause]

[Unidentified speaker] Commander Fidel, I have come from Bolivia with a friend who works in an enterprise. First, I want to express Bolivia's love and admiration for your efforts on the Cuban people's survival and freedom and for being an example of independence to all Latin American leaders. I do not want to leave Cuba without firmly shaking your hand as a symbol of the struggle against the economic blockade endured by Cuba and its people. [applause]

[Emilio Galdez, sales director of Grupo Sol in Cuba] I do not have any questions because I already have my answers after living in Cuba for three and a half years; I received them on a daily basis from the honest efforts of the Cuban people and the efforts which I have witnessed at all levels day to day in the tourism sector, as well as in the society. I ask that you continue your struggle and your efforts, which in the last three and a half years have yielded results and successes. I ask that you continue to set the example which other countries were, perhaps, not virtuous enough to adopt.

I refer to positive and negative things which have been attained in tourism. For example, in my country—Spain—we have had many successes, but we must

lament not having been successful in other things and even failures. We have experienced a crisis from which we are now recovering. We will have to make investments to regain the levels of years ago.

Keeping these things in mind, I ask of you to continue this path to attain what I believe everyone augurs for this beautiful country, which has all the right conditions to fulfill its goals. My cooperation with Cuba does not end, but my stay does in two months. I must follow orders. My boss has asked me, and I agree. I must return to Majorca.

However, during my stay in Cuba I have had the great luck of working with and making friends not easily found in other countries, wholehearted friends, true friends to the end. I have had the luck of meeting my wife and having a daughter—Daria Lucia—in this beautiful country. She is 44 days old today. Therefore, my wish is that very soon and before she can talk, but when she can understand me I will be able to tell her that Cuba has overcome the very difficult special period because it truly deserves it.

Finally, it is also my wish—I have asked many friends at work to help me with this—to take a photo of you with me and my wife and daughter.

Dear friends, I ask you to continue working together and more united and strong each day for the good and future of tourism in Cuba! Viva Cuba! Viva Fidel! Viva the Revolution! [applause, pause]

[Castro] I have been told that you have made a great effort and that it is time to conclude this meeting. I believe you have other things scheduled, including a closing ceremony. Is that right? When? At nine? I imagine you have to go to your rooms and do things. I believe I have tired you enough.

It has been a great pleasure to come to this meeting. We have heard very friendly words and intelligent and interesting questions. We have also experienced moving moments, such as the case of the comrade who spoke just now and introduced his wife and daughter. We have seen a great example of the ties and relations that can be established among the peoples through tourism. He asked us to continue along this path. I can affirm that we will and that we will never betray the trust of those who believed in us. [applause]

Our word and commitments are sacred. In no [words indistinct] of law, or any canon by Osmany, because we have the canon of honor, seriousness, the given word which will always prevail. We follow principles of honesty and good faith. We follow principles of optimism, and that will always prevail.

We only began a short while back and can already see certain results. I believe we can speak of a future, given the efforts we are conducting. You cannot imagine with what difficulties we began to build those renowned causeways. This has helped us gain access to marvelous

beaches, as marvelous as this Varadero beach, in other places around Cuba. We will continue working in this manner, with efforts and sacrifice. We cannot nor do we deny that we are working under hard and difficult conditions.

This is why words such as the ones we have heard today are so encouraging; the words of the lady who spoke about her daughter and the faith and trust she has in Cuba; the words, the words by the Bolivian gentleman; those by the German gentleman. I mentioned this because he relayed a message from an 84-year-old man who said his stay had been the happiest days of his life; 84 is a considerable age. Those of us who are a little younger felt it. [laughter]

An 84-year-old man has experienced practically the entire century. He lived through World Wars I and II and has experienced calamities of every kind, hard and good moments in his life. The fact that he felt the happiest here is encouraging and honors us.

I will try to maintain that tradition and set this example for as long as I can. I am sorry not everyone is here, but this hall can only accommodate so many.

As you can see, we have a brand new minister. [applause]

Perhaps I am getting ahead of myself and prompted your generous applause. He has yet to earn that applause. What I should have said is that we have a brand new ministry. We must find out if we have a brilliant minister. [applause]

This has to be seen. However, we have the greatest hope that he will prove so. [applause]

In any case, another will have to if he does not prove so. [laughter]

What is clear is that we need a good ministry and an even better minister. He has many ideas and initiatives that have been warmly welcomed and endorsed. I hope that this will help accelerate the development of tourism in Cuba, which will continue to have the support of our people, government, and everyone.

I want to add: Our people did not understand tourism at first. It was necessary to conduct an educational campaign so that our people, who had been brought up in the strictest ivory tower puritanism, would understand the need for tourism, its portended dangers, what tourism would represent, etc.

I assure you that that struggle is being amply won and that the people's enthusiasm and happiness is immediately recognized anywhere in Cuba today where a new tourist project is announced.

We have had to do difficult things to reconcile certain issues. The people had a hard time understanding the dollar decriminalization issue, which is why we have had to explain every step. We normally explain things to the people. We do not want things to appear by decree but by

persuading the population. We had to explain our own difficulties, the excess of currency we have and which any tourist or tour operator understands readily, the approximate value of a peso, a dollar, a pound. This required taking measures to correct the national financial imbalance. However, these measures were not taken by decree or accord of the Council of Ministers but were discussed at the National Assembly of the People's Government. They were discussed at every workplace with millions of workers. A consensus was reached before measures were taken.

We sometimes have difficult tasks. You see this everywhere. However, I believe the essential key is to persuade the people and to attain a consensus among the population for every step taken. This is how our population came to understand the need for tourism and understands it more and more each day. They understood the need for the highly touted decriminalization of dollars and all that.

Our people were brought up in deeply rooted egalitarianism, and anytime anything gave the appearance of privilege it upset them. For example, if someone has a wealthy relative abroad who sends things the others did not have, that is still a certain privilege. Our population had a very deep sense of equality. We have explained to them that this is necessary, that it helps the national economy, that it helps those who do not have wealthy relatives abroad and that somehow what is received makes its way back to them. That is the argument we used to persuade our people. I am happy to see how they have come to understand and to support tourism.

I must also add that I am pleased, very pleased to have had the opportunity to meet outstanding people such as you.

Thank you, very much. [applause]

Authorities Update Actions Against Hoarders

FL2805133594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] As of 26 May, the Havana Public Prosecutor's Office has carried out joint operations with combined Interior Ministry forces in five municipalities against 28 people identified as being involved in the criminal actions contemplated in Decree-Law 149 of the Council of State.

The operation against the so-called hoarders ranged from raids on homes to arrests as necessary. The preliminary seizure of goods included freezing bank accounts totaling 270,000 pesos and confiscating \$540, 15 automobiles, seven motorcycles of diverse makes, three trucks, 500 animals, and 57 different pieces of jewelry. The seizures also included several properties, machines, tools, raw materials, fuel, and other items. The authorities are currently investigating the origin and suppliers of these items as well as conducting other related police and judicial procedures.

During the fourth special session of the People's Government in Havana, this station learned that legal action has been taken against 100 cases of illegal sale and purchase of automobiles as well as 100 cases on housing, which range from the illegal sale and purchase of houses to fraudulent swaps.

Glenda Azoy, member of the provincial bureau of the Cuban Communist Party in Havana, told reporters that this is not just another temporary police program but a continuous offensive against illegal actions and lack of respect for the law. We will be strict and just in all cases, she said, but the measures provided for by Decree-Law 149 are here to stay to benefit the law and the interests of the Revolution.

Minister, Spanish Official Sign Investment Accord

FL2805113794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 94

[From the NTV newscast]

[Text] Today, Cuba and Spain signed a bilateral agreement on promoting and protecting investments in Havana in the presence of Politburo member Carlos Lage and other high ranking Spanish and Cuban officials.

Cuban and Spanish experts at the fourth Spanish-Cuban joint commission for economic cooperation concluded two days of intense work by signing a bilateral agreement on promoting and protecting investments. The future of economic and financial relations between Cuba and Spain, one of the island's main trading partners, was discussed after the agreement was signed by Apolonio Ruiz Ligerio, Spanish secretary of state for foreign trade, and Ernesto Melendez, Cuban foreign investment and economic cooperation minister:

[Begin recording] [Ruiz] This agreement is most important. We would call this an agreement of the new generation since it provides confidence and judicial security and a proper setting for investors. Of course, pioneering investors arrive before the agreements themselves. But I believe the signing of this agreement is extremely important for those pioneers and those that may follow. We have already established similar agreements with other Latin American countries, and it was important that we sign such an agreement with Cuba. I believe we can present this to our respective economic sectors as a big step.

[Melendez] We were able to examine an important area in our economic and trade relations. This agreement is the final result of that examination. I would even say that the document reaffirms the friendship and political willingness of the two governments to maintain, strengthen, and expand our relations. We have discussed trade and financial relations, and we have underscored the importance of seeking ways to strengthen our relations. [end recording]

Delegates Begin Talks

PA2805141794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Today, Cuban and Spanish delegates opened bilateral talks in Havana to study the status of trade and cooperation projects as well as the situation of joint enterprises in Cuba, which are financed by the two countries.

Ernesto Melendez, Cuban minister for foreign investment and economic cooperation, and Apolonio Ruiz Ligerio, Spanish secretary for foreign trade and tourism are presiding over the fourth meeting of the joint Spanish-Cuban Commission.

Ruiz Ligerio pointed out that the agenda's most important item was today's signing of an agreement for the promotion and protection of investments. He said Cuba has signed similar documents with Italy and Switzerland and that another is being negotiated with Great Britain. Spain is Cuba's most important trade partner. Spanish firms participate in one out of every four economic associations created with foreign capital on the island.

Spanish Official Views Results

PA3005022294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0143 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Havana, 27 May (NOTIMEX)—Apolonio Ruiz Ligerio, Spanish secretary of state for foreign trade, disclosed here today that Spain proposed Cuba step up the pace of the economic reforms aimed at reorganizing the island's economy.

In a brief news conference, Ruiz said he met with Vice President Carlos Lage and other members of the Cuban economic cabinet, who explained the difficulties in accelerating these changes. In any case, Ruiz added, Spain perceives that the measures adopted by the Cuban Government, such as the legalization of the possession of foreign currency and the increases in prices and fees, are not isolated and form part of a comprehensive package.

Ruiz lamented the drop in Cuba's capacity to export to Spain as a result of the current economic crisis and indicated that if the supply of Cuban merchandise increases, Madrid would be able to increase its purchases. According to sources close to the Spanish delegation, bilateral trade amounted to approximately \$290 million in both directions.

On Friday, Cuba and Spain expressed their interest in extending their economic cooperation to areas other than tourism by signing an agreement for the mutual promotion and protection of investments. "This new generation agreement is very important because it establishes confidence, legal security, and an adequate framework for investors," Ruiz Ligerio said after signing the agreement at the end of two days of talks.

Ruiz also signed with Ernesto Melendez, Cuban minister for foreign investment and economic cooperation, the

final document of the fourth meeting of the joint inter-governmental commission, which held sessions in Havana. The two officials highlighted the "simple, brief, smooth, and easy" way that the negotiations took place, indicating that they reaffirmed Havana and Madrid's political resolve to strengthen economic and financial ties.

"We have given ourselves the challenge of making sure that in the medium term, these relations will be good and that we will be able to lay the foundations for greater cooperation in the future," Ruiz stressed. He arrived in Havana on Wednesday. "The negotiations were very simple and we can present our economic sectors with substantial progress," the high-ranking Spanish official said. He also met here with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and other officials.

"The increasing way that the Spanish entrepreneur is in our market and in tourism investments bodes well for our work prospects. We are very pleased with the results of the talks," Melendez said. Sources of the Cuban delegation told NOTIMEX that "one of the basic conclusions is that investments are a fundamental element for the development of relations and everything possible must be done to increase them."

Robaina Departs for Nonaligned Summit, Qatar

FL2905222294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 May 94

[From the "Sunday Supplemental NTV" newscast]

[Text] A delegation headed by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has departed for the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] ministerial summit in Cairo. Robaina explained the goals of the summit, Cuba's position, and his visit to Qatar before departing:

[Begin Robaina recording] The goals are not far from the aspirations Cuba has always defended regarding the NAM. Since Cuba became a member, it has always called for strengthening the Movement and its authority in representing the poor of the Earth and those who do not have enough resources to allow their peoples to live the way they deserve and to attain a voice and authority that can be heard in the international arena.

These main goals that unite us are to strengthen the NAM and to turn the NAM into a strong force at the United Nations and other international forums and discussions. I believe in turning the NAM into a truly integrated force, not only in terms of North-South cooperation but also in terms of South-North cooperation. Why not South-South cooperation? All these things are part of the very broad agenda which we will discuss in Cairo.

I will visit Qatar at the invitation of that country's foreign minister, who, as you know, visited Cuba a few months ago. The main goal of this trip is to open our diplomatic mission in Qatar. [end recording]

Meets Press on Regional Summits

FL3005015594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 May 94

[Report by correspondent Rey Rodriguez from the NTV newscast]

[Text] As part of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's diplomatic offensive, a delegation headed by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has departed for the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] ministerial summit in Cairo. One of the summit's main goals is to strengthen South-South cooperation as well as to draft guidelines for the Movement's future. This was pointed out by Robaina during a news conference. He also discussed other important issues, such as the forthcoming Ibero-American summit:

[Begin recording] [Robaina] Three main issues dealing with economic aspects and Latin American integration will be discussed. In all likelihood, Cartagena will be a forum to reaffirm the willingness of the Ibero-American peoples and where Cuba will undoubtedly have to speak of the motives behind the call to a hemispheric summit in Miami which excludes Cuba. It is important to discuss our view on this maneuver in Cartagena.

Regarding the blockade, no one has the least doubt that given what was accomplished in Bahia...[pauses] I believe other things happened after the Bahia summit. There was a strong resolution of support at the United Nations, and there is an ever increasing commitment among many countries, peoples, and governments.

[Rodriguez] Minister, what is Cuba's position on the hemispheric summit? Do you believe it is an alternative to the Ibero-American summits?

[Robaina] I would say that, rather than an alternative, it is undoubtedly a maneuver to discredit, diminish the authority, and overshadow the results of the Ibero-American summits. I also believe that if the regional superpower really meant to meet with every country in the region, it would have given more consideration to events, time, and place. In my opinion, the manner in which this has been organized speaks by itself of the [words indistinct] what we have been doing with Ibero-America. If we are not included, they still want to discuss Cuba which has been singled out and toward that end selected Miami.

[Rodriguez] If Cuba were to be invited to the hemispheric summit in Miami, would Cuba attend?

[Robaina] Rather than my opinion, it is the belief of the country's leadership—the president himself has said it—that we are not afraid to attend any forum we are invited to no matter where, even Miami. Cuba does not seek an invitation. Even if Cuba had been invited to that summit, it would have questioned the manner in which the summit was called, without considering the participant countries' opinions. Cuba is willing to go, however, and explain its project of truth and work anywhere our presence is requested. [end recording]

Stresses NAM's Importance

FL3005190194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in
Spanish 1700 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina met several officials in Cairo early this morning, including Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, and Arab League Secretary General Issmat 'Abd al-Majid.

Upon arriving in Cairo last night, Robaina emphasized that although times are not the same as 40 years ago, the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] maintains its importance. Robaina pointed out that NAM members have the right to be heard in the concert of nations since the organization encompasses more than two-thirds of mankind. He added that this right can be justified today more than ever due to increasing international instability, the emergence of a militarily and politically unilateral world, and the concentration of economic power in the countries of the North.

Robaina said: This is more than enough reason to attend a meeting such as this, with the interest of not only establishing positions but also putting things into motion. The meetings for experts, who will discuss the topics to be covered by the foreign ministers beginning tomorrow, began this morning.

Acting Foreign Minister: No Progress in U.S. Ties

LD3005221694 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in
Finnish 0900 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] The Cuban Government does not see any speedy chance of improving relations with the United States. Isabel Allende, acting foreign minister of Cuba, says there has been no progress in relations, even during President Clinton's era. Allende is critical of the United States for politicizing Cuban immigration, saying that Cuba has launched a program seeking to expand Cuba's foreign political relations. Antti Halinen met the acting Cuban foreign minister in Havana.

[Halinen] No progress can be seen in the relations between the United States and Cuba, says acting Foreign Minister Isabel Allende very curtly. We waited to see what the Clinton administration would do, but reality remains precisely the same, only the political form is slightly softer, Allende says. She refers to Clinton's recent meeting with some Cubans of Miami at which the president promised to continue the trade and economic embargo against Cuba. Progress has not been made in other sectors either, even though Cuba has announced that it is prepared to normalize its relations with the United States. But if one wants to normalize relations, one cannot, of course, maintain a trade embargo, Allende points out.

Allende accuses the United States of manipulating and politicizing Cuba's emigrant and refugee affairs, which has not happened to any other Latin American country. On the basis of the treaty of 1984, the United States

could grant as many as 20,000 visas to Cubans a year. According to Allende, just over 1,000 Cubans were granted a visa last year. Allende says the United States is using the matter to its political advantage. Visa applications are rejected, but at the same time the country receives all those who have left Cuba illegally. The Haitians' boats are turned back, but Cuban ferry people are granted a residence permit immediately. In Allende's view, much is spoken and written about these Cubans in Europe too, unlike for instance the Mexicans, the so-called wet backs, who seek to enter the United States illegally. The name wet back comes from the fact that when crossing the border river, the Mexicans get wet.

According to acting Foreign Minister Allende, the Cuban Government is prepared to improve relations between Cubans, but it presupposes one thing from its interlocutors: Opposition to the U.S. anti-Cuban policy and recognition of Cuba's sovereignty. At a recent meeting in Havana, some tangible results were achieved but it is still difficult to get close, Allende admits.

She cites an example. A Cuban lawyer, who attended the meeting, a U.S. citizen and member of the Democratic Party, at the final meeting thanked Fidel Castro for the conference and kissed him on the cheek. Back home in Miami, abuse and murder threats awaited the lawyer and her children, and the lawyer's car was smashed to pieces.

[Announcer] The acting Cuban Foreign Minister Isabel Allende is not the famous Chilean writer, nor is she the daughter of the former president of Chile, with whom she is often confused on account of her name.

National Assembly President Concludes UK Visit

FL3005170294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in
Spanish 1405 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, ANPP, has concluded a visit to the UK at the invitation of the British group of the Interparliamentary Union. In London, Alarcon met with numerous British parliamentarians on Cuba's current situation and on the particularities of its government system. Alarcon met Betty Boothroyd, president of the House of Commons, among other figures.

Alarcon began his visit to the UK on 23 May as head of a delegation that included Osvaldo Martinez, president of the ANPP Economic Commission, and Lidia Tablada, director of the National Center for Agricultural-Livestock Hygiene. The Cuban delegation led by Ricardo Alarcon also met UK authorities, including (David Hitchcock), the state minister of the Foreign Office. It was decided at the meeting that the British Government would send an official delegation to Cuba, to be led by (Patrick Glovin), state minister for trade and technology and a participant of the meetings with Alarcon in London.

The Cuban parliamentary delegation also met British businessmen interested in maintaining and strengthening trade relations with Cuba. Coinciding with Alarcon's visit, Basic Industry Minister Marcos Portal was also in London and held several meetings with British businessmen.

Civil Defense Assesses Flood Damage in Provinces

FL2805153494 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1401 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] The Civil Defense has made a final assessment of the damage, encompassing an area of over 40,000 square km, caused by heavy rainfall in the eastern provinces. Most of the damage took place in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, and Camaguey. The damage includes the partial or complete destruction of 4,360 houses and damages to another 32,720. Over 250,000 people were affected by the recent rains and floods. A significant number of dams, aqueducts, and electric and telephone services were also damaged. Damages were also reported in 4,500 square km of crops, mainly sugarcane, rice, tubers, and vegetables.

Raul Castro Backs Agriculture Restructuring

PA2705144194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 May 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has said unscrupulous individuals will not be allowed to divert and make use of the material results of the toil of selfless workers who comprise the Youth Labor Army [EJT]. Castro presided over the final event organized by the FAR General Staff for the EJT's Havana division, which was created nine months ago.

After analyzing the work done by the EJT, Gen. Castro praised these forces doing farm work in Havana, describing them as the pride of the country. In a brief statement during the final meeting, he supported a profound restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture, which he said is the cause of inefficiency in state farms. Bureaucracy, he stressed, destroyed state agriculture. On this matter, he had words of praise for current Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan and added that he is certain Jordan will successfully carry out the task of bringing more products to the market. The EJT is a group within the FAR devoted to work in the agricultural and livestock sector, and since its founding 21 years ago [as heard] has become the most productive of the entire country.

[Editorial note: Mexico City NOTIMEX at 1840 GMT on 26 May carries a report citing the remarks by Gen. Raul Castro, as reported by Cuban daily GRANMA. Castro is cited as urging the EJT members to implement "new formulas" to eliminate shortcomings, negligence,

red tape, and theft. He is also cited as saying that enforcement measures will be implemented "within the law."]

Foreign Ministry Welcomes U.S. Recognition on Drugs

PA2705144294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1639 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Havana, 24 May (NOTIMEX)—Today, the Cuban Foreign Ministry favorably reacted to an official U.S. report acknowledging the struggle the Havana Government has been waging against drug trafficking. Miguel Alfonso, a Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman, referring to the U.S. State Department report issued last week, told the media: "It is belated, but we welcome it."

The spokesman said the Foreign Ministry does not yet have any official analysis of the document, which is being analyzed by the Directorate of Multilateral Affairs. Alfonso announced, though, that this "recognition" of Cuba's official policy for the control of drug trafficking "is somewhat belated."

The U.S. State Department report pointed out "efforts the Cuban Government has made to prevent drug trafficking in its territorial waters and air space." The document also praised the steps the Caribbean nation has taken in this direction and noted that Cuban authorities have reinforced their antidrug trafficking struggle. The Cuban spokesman stated: "Our government's policy on the struggle against drug trafficking is long-lived."

Dominican Republic

Haitian Border Closed To Enforce UN Blockade

PA2705174094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1546 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Dajabon, Dominican Republic, 27 May (EFE)—The flow of individuals and vehicles across the Haitian-Dominican Republic border has been suspended. This seems to indicate that starting today, Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer is keeping his promise to implement the blockade imposed by the United Nations.

On Wednesday, Balaguer promised Dante Caputo, UN and OAS negotiator for Haiti, and William Grey, special U.S. envoy, that he would close the border completely, and yesterday, Balaguer met with his secretary of the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Matos Villanueva.

Since early this morning, Dominican soldiers have been preventing the entry of Haitians through the border crossing at Dajabon, the Dominican town closest to Haitian territory.

The Dominican Government's efforts are also being supported by Haitian guards, who are preventing their fellow countrymen from getting closer than 700 meters to the border. As is common on Mondays and Fridays, these Haitians had planned to cross the border to buy

and sell goods. In addition, hundreds of Haitians normally enter the Dominican Republic every day to buy fuel and take it back to Haiti.

The Dominican Armed Forces have increased the number of soldiers on the border to enforce the total closure of the border. The surveillance posts along the Dominican border are located every 10 meters and are now under the constant supervision of officers in vehicles. On the Haitian side, soldiers are also preventing their compatriots from crossing the Masacre River into the Dominican Republic. Since 0500, senior officers have been personally ensuring that "neither Haitians nor Dominicans" cross the border.

The parks and main streets in Dajabon also have been placed under military control. The closing of the border surprised the residents of Dajabon and hundreds of Dominicans who arrive from other cities to buy clothes, shoes, liquor, and arts and crafts from Haitians. It also affected Dominican merchants who travel up to 300 km to sell food to the Haitians.

A Dominican Army officer at one border post warned: "No one will be able to control these Haitians. When they are starving to death, they will want to cross the border, even if they get killed in the process."

Border Troops Replaced To Enforce UN Embargo

PA2705222994 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2141 GMT
27 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 May (DPA)—Today, Constantino Matos Villanueva, Dominican Republic Armed Forces secretary, ordered that the 5,000 Dominican soldiers on the border be replaced to guarantee the effectiveness of the total embargo against Haiti. The replacement was made in response to reports by international organizations and the U.S. media that Dominican soldiers were profiting from the contraband of fuel and other Haiti-bound merchandise from Dominican territory.

In addition, Matos Villanueva revealed that 30 UN observers will come to the country soon to work alongside Dominican troops and verify compliance with the embargo. He explained these observers, many of whom are soldiers, will work in civilian clothes and several of them will man helicopters, speedboats, and other logistical equipment that will be used to prevent the smuggling of fuel and food. Matos Villanueva said the United Nations will supply this U.S.-made equipment. This will be done because the Dominican Navy does not have enough ships to patrol the Dominican coasts that border Haiti.

These measures, Matos Villanueva added, were suggested by Alexander Martinovic, political official of the UN Security Council Sanction Committee, who visited the Dominican Republic early this week at the head of an observers mission.

Meanwhile, Matos Villanueva concluded that the border has remained sealed off for the past three days and the

movement of persons or vehicles between Haiti and the Dominican Republic is not allowed.

UN Ambassador: Embargo Violations Minor

PA2705201294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1808 GMT
27 May 94

[Text] United Nations, 27 May (EFE)—Today, Pedro Blandino Canto, Dominican ambassador to the United Nations, said his government is taking action to comply with the embargo along the border with Haiti. He added that embargo violations registered were minor and that an effort is being made to prevent them.

During a news conference, Blandino Canto accused U.S. television media of staging a campaign accusing his country of violating the embargo; however, up until now they have only presented images of civilians "who are taking advantage of the situation by transporting jugs of fuel through isolated areas."

According to the Dominican ambassador, "no one has been able to display photographs of private, military, or petroleum company fuel trucks transporting gasoline to Haiti." He added that, since the beginning of the Haitian crisis, the Dominican Republic's policy has been "coherent, stable, and humanitarian."

As he had done previously, before Latin American and Caribbean countries, the ambassador mentioned the measures adopted by his government to assure the fulfillment of the embargo. These measures started with the creation of a high-level commission, comprised of the military chiefs. This commission requested technical assistance from the United Nations.

Blandino Canto added that he had met on two occasions with Nigerian Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, president of the UN Security Council, to analyze the matters and with UN undersecretary Marrack Goulding, to discuss the technical mission.

The diplomat distributed copies of the 13 April decree issued by Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer, whereby the commission was created. The commission, chaired by Armed Forces State Secretary, was authorized, at the request of the United Nations and the corresponding organizations, "exclusive logistic and technical support, in case it was considered necessary."

He also delivered a copy of the letter whereby the Commission requests UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, to send a technical mission "to study on site the true situation that prevails," and to present recommendations on the case.

The Dominican organization promises "the most faithful fulfillment of these recommendations" to prevent weapons, petroleum, petroleum by-products, and other articles that are not strictly humanitarian from being introduced through the land border and the adjacent marine areas.

The Dominican Republic, in addition to supplying the logistical support that may be considered necessary, will "gladly" receive the technical advisers that the UN secretary general may appoint. This was stated in the Dominican commission's letter to Butrus-Ghali.

Ambassador Blandino Canto also made reference to the elections in his country, which were held on the 16th, signaling that they are not directly related to the Haitian problem. The exception is the campaign staged against his country, based on "the irresponsible allegations by an alleged observer," clearly making reference to former U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz.

The Dominican diplomat acknowledged that during the elections "irregularities could have been registered, as happens in all elections, but that this does not constitute fraud, unless the results are altered." He also recalled that, according to the last Electoral Board bulletin, President Balaguer was reelected with more than a 30,000-vote advantage over the candidate who came in second.

Official Advocates Entry of Haitians To Buy Food

PA3105005694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2304 GMT
30 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 May (EFE)—Today, Dominican Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral advocated that Haitians be allowed to cross the border to buy food to satisfy their basic needs. Herrera Cabral said the ban on the entry of Haitians to buy food "is excessive" and they should be allowed to buy food. He added that "Haiti cannot be turned into a prison or an immense concentration camp," seeking to justify his position of allowing Haitians to enter to buy food.

Since last Friday, Dominican troops have been preventing Dominicans and Haitians from crossing the border to buy or sell products. Up to last Friday, Haitians had been allowed to enter for several hours on Mondays and Fridays to sell their products. They took advantage of the opportunity to buy dry goods which are scarce in Haiti.

Increased border vigilance began after Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer committed with UN negotiator Dante Caputo and William Gray, U.S. Government delegate, to completely close the border with Haiti.

Regarding UN observers who will arrive in the Dominican Republic to supervise fulfillment of the embargo, he explained they will not bring military equipment or troops. Herrera Cabral said: "Military equipment is not needed to control a disarmed and hungry people." Herrera Cabral added that the UN observers are coming with logistical equipment to support the border surveillance by Dominican military.

Miguel Bermeo Estrella, UN delegate in Santo Domingo, told EFE that the observer mission will arrive in Santo Domingo after UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali

studies the report prepared by the mission that assessed the situation two weeks ago at the border of the Caribbean island. Bermeo Estrella said the sending of the mission observers will depend on Butrus-Ghali's decision.

As for the scope of the total embargo, Bermeo Estrella explained that "humanitarian aid" programs are being conducted to prevent poverty and hunger from further destroying the Haitian people.

Fuel Smuggling Accidents Leave 19 Dead

PA2705183294 Paris AFP in Spanish 1659 GMT
27 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 May (AFP)—Armed Forces spokesmen report that 19 people have died and 42 others have been injured along the Dominican-Haitian border since the embargo on Haiti began to be intensified on Saturday. Citing military sources, local newspapers reported today that fatalities and injuries along the border have been caused by accidents involving vehicles that were smuggling fuel into Haiti and that were attempting to evade pursuing military vehicles. Over the weekend, the Dominican Army intensified its surveillance of more than 300 km of border with Haiti to prevent the smuggling of fuel into the neighboring country.

Deputy Foreign Minister Urges Aristide To Resign

PA2705171994 Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT
27 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 May (AFP)—Today, Dominican Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera said deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide should resign to facilitate a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis. Herrera said he does not believe that stepping up the embargo or resorting to military intervention to force Aristide's return are solutions for the neighboring country.

"I believe the solution will be for the military to leave power and for Aristide to resign, thereby making way for a provisional government and, in turn, general elections," Herrera said in a domestic television interview. According to Herrera, if the Haitian military is crushed by way of a military intervention, then Aristide would have to rule with a government guarded by foreign troops.

The Dominican deputy foreign minister, who is considered an expert on Haiti, reiterated his disagreement with the embargo because Haiti "has become a huge concentration camp." Herrera also said that it was "impossible" for the Dominican Republic to prevent contraband fuel from trickling into Haiti "because we have 300 km of border which is very difficult to patrol."

Herrera also rejected the idea presented by Western powers that Haitian refugee camps be set up in Dominican Republic. This topic, as well as the issue of border patrols, was discussed with President Joaquin Balaguer by President Bill Clinton's special envoy William Grey

on Wednesday night in Santo Domingo. Following the meeting, Balaguer announced that he "would seal" the border.

According to information received today, Balaguer met yesterday afternoon with the Armed Forces High Command to instruct them to redouble border vigilance. According to Army sources, more than 10,000 soldiers are deployed in the impoverished border region to prevent contraband and Haitians crossing into the Dominican Republic.

Armed Forces Secretary General Constantino Matos told the press that "we are conducting strenuous and honest work" along the border in an effort to comply with UN decisions. Nevertheless, he admitted, "it is possible that some gasoline is still being shipped" into Haiti, but "not with the consent of the Armed Forces." Matos also announced that border troops will soon be relieved by fresh troops, and he gave assurances that if officers or soldiers are found to have permitted contraband to cross the border into Haiti, they will be severely punished.

[In a related 210-word, Santo Domingo-datetime report, Paris AFP in Spanish at 1335 GMT on 27 May notes, "The presence of Haitians in the commercial sector of downtown Santo Domingo, where they secure supplies to meet demands for various goods in their country, has been reduced to a minimum." The report adds: "A similar drop in the presence of Haitians was noticed in the border province of Pedernales, 350 km south of Santo Domingo. According to reports from the border region, many Haitians are gathering along a small river on the border, waiting to establish contact with Dominicans wanting to sell them food."]

Candidate Pena Gomez Warns of Possible Crisis

PA2705213094 Paris AFP in Spanish 2016 GMT
27 May 94

[By Arturo Gudino]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 May (AFP)—Opposition presidential candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez today announced that should the Central Electoral Board (JCE) proclaim President Joaquin Balaguer the winner, the elected mayors, deputies, and senators of his party will not take office. This, in all light, would provoke an institutional crisis that would prevent Balaguer, should he be proclaimed winner, from ruling the country beginning on 16 August, date scheduled for the change of government.

After the 16 May general elections, Pena Gomez made accusations of a massive fraud in favor of Balaguer, who is seeking reelection to a seventh term. According to Pena Gomez, the JCE Computer Center and at least two of its five magistrates planned the fraud through a computer maneuver that left about 200,000 citizens, who could not vote and were replaced by others "who voted twice," off from the voting list

In statements to the media, Pena Gomez said that if Balaguer is proclaimed the winner before clarifying the serious irregularities that were denounced, his deputies, senators, and mayors will not take office. With only eight voting tables pending count, Balaguer was ahead of Pena Gomez, but by only 1 percent of the votes, that is, about 30,000. Should this trend be repeated in the vote count for deputies, senators, and mayors, where the PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] could win a majority, Balaguer might be unable to rule, because the congressional chambers would not be operational.

"No winner has been proclaimed and cannot be proclaimed, but if they try to do so, they should know that there would be an illegitimate government in place, which we will combat by all means," Pena Gomez said. "We will not legalize any usurper," added the black Social Democratic leader in a vigorous tone.

Pena Gomez has so far prevented street demonstrations by his followers, in an effort to avoid any violence, and has shown impartiality, an image that contrasts with the one that the official party tried to sell during the electoral campaign.

Pena Gomez said that in the past hours, he has received solidarity calls from Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres, Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina, and Portuguese President Mario Soares. He added that he will send missions to Europe and America to show that his charges are based on reality. Meanwhile, various sectors of Dominican society started to demand a solution to the crisis through an agreement between the various political forces and President Balaguer.

Denounces 'Electoral Coup' Attempt

PA2905191094 Paris AFP in Spanish 1704 GMT
29 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 29 May (AFP)—The social democratic Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) of presidential candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez today denounced "an attempt to stage an electoral coup" that would jeopardize "the nation's democratic order."

In a communique issued in Santo Domingo, the PRD and the other seven small parties that supported Pena Gomez stated that "we are facing an electoral coup attempt perpetrated by the current government (of conservative President Joaquin Balaguer) through the distortion of the electoral process. The Dominican Republic held presidential, parliamentary, and municipal elections on 16 May in the presence of international observers.

"Government officials, in an attempt to keep themselves in power, realizing that it is impossible for them to win the elections honestly, decided to corrupt the electoral process, because they know that it is difficult for them to achieve their goal through a direct coup d'etat or through military force, the communique stated.

After insisting that Balaguer's Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) has resorted to "fraudulent attempts in the past," the PRD maintained that "on this occasion, the crisis acquired an unprecedented characteristic because the country's democratic order is at stake."

The PRD and seven other parties said "the key is to preserve the representative system," and reaffirmed that [words indistinct] the PRD leaders announced last Friday, in the voice of Pena Gomez himself. Analysts think this could reportedly unleash an institutional crisis that would prevent Balaguer, should he be proclaimed winner, from ruling beginning on 16 August, the date scheduled for the change in government.

Balaguer, an octogenarian who is virtually blind and has a 1 percent (30,000 vote) lead in the vote count, plans to start his seventh term in the presidency in the next four days.

No winner in the presidential elections has yet been proclaimed because of the fraud charges, and the Central Electoral Board announced that it will start an investigation into alleged distortions in the voters list. Meanwhile, Pena Gomez announced he will start an international offensive to prove that his fraud charges are true.

Haiti

Tontons Macoutes Reappear To Repel Intervention

PA2705190694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1704 GMT 27 May 94

[By Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 27 May (EFE)—The feared "Tontons Macoutes" reappeared in Haiti today and announced their intention to assist the Army in preventing a foreign military intervention.

Spokesman Gerard Dessaint said "reinforced vigilance" throughout the country is the new assignment of this paramilitary group, which is accused of killing thousands of people under the Duvalier regimes.

Dessaint said the group is ready, together with the Haitian Army, to combat a possible foreign military intervention. He said the group intends to once again establish its garrisons throughout the country and keep close watch over all Haitian territory.

According to Dessaint, within 15 days the "Tontons Macoutes" will be seen all across Haiti wearing their traditional blue uniform.

The "Tontons Macoutes," the name given to the paramilitary police created by dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier in the 1950's, was officially dissolved in February 1986, following the overthrow of his son's regime. Later, many of its members joined the Army and have served as volunteers in the police and Armed Forces. Most of them, however, became "attaches," who are

used in attacks on citizens, especially followers of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in September 1991 by the military under the command of Raoul Cedras.

The announcement of the reappearance of the "Tontons Macoute" takes place at a time when the United Nations is trying to enforce a total embargo against Haiti to force the military to abandon power.

A U.S. aircraft carrier, a helicopter carrier, and two special patrol boats, along with other vessels, are maneuvering near Haiti to reinforce the naval embargo against this Caribbean country.

In the neighboring Dominican Republic, the border has been militarized by the Dominican Government to avoid the smuggling of gasoline and other oil derivative fuels.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1737 GMT on 27 May transmits a similar 350-word report that quotes Dessaint saying that "more than 30,000 VSN (National Security Volunteers, better known as the 'Tontons Macoutes') have already been recruited from around Port-au-Prince."]

Back Army To Fight Foreign Forces

FL2705215294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 27 May 94

[Report by correspondent Rothschild Francois]

[Text] [Francois] On 27 May, the Tontons Macoutes formally announced that the Volunteers for National Security [Volontaires de la Securite Nationale (VSN)] have returned to the Haitian political scene, eight years after being dissolved by Henry Namphy and the Government National Council. They noted that the move was prompted by the threat of intervention hanging over Haiti.

Mrs. (Gerard Dessain), the VSN's new leader, explains that the Tontons Macoutes have offered to help the Haitian Army fight foreign troops in case of invasion. (Dessain) asserts that the big Duvalierist lords or the big Tontons Macoutes lords are behind this movement:

[Begin (Dessain) recording, in Creole] All VSN delegates from the nine departments that were sent here today say: No! No! They will not accept an intervention. There will be an intervention only over our dead bodies. We will be in front and the Army will be behind. We offer our services to the Army because we are not ungrateful. The Army trained us. We only know how to use weapons because the Army taught us how to fight. The Army taught us how to protect ourselves. We cannot betray the Army. They think that the Army is alone today, but this is not true. Some people have a conscience. Some people love their country and side with the Army. We, the VSN, say we are present. We make it a point of saying that we are on the field. We stand beside the Army in defending our country no matter when, no matter which day they

wish to intervene. We know they can kill us, but we will not die on our knees. We will not die sitting down. We will not be disabled. We will die standing up. [applause] [end recording]

[Francois] (Dessain), who was addressing correspondents at the downtown headquarters of the neo-Duvalierist party known as the Assembly of Democrats for the Republic, rose up against military intervention in Haiti. (Dessain) also tried to make it clear that Port-au-Prince slums would be destroyed by the foreign forces in case of intervention. (Dessain) noted that 30,051 Tontons Macoutes have already been recruited in the metropolitan area alone. She asked President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide to take an official stand against military intervention in Haiti to solve the crisis. (Dessain), who leads the VSN, also asserted that the Tontons Macoutes and the VSN will be donning their blue uniforms nationwide very soon.

Jonassaint Spokesman Rejects Tonton Macoutes Return

PA3105003894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2316 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Port au Prince, 30 May (EFE)—Today, Haitian Information Minister Jacques Saint-Louis said the de facto government of Emile Jonassaint will not accept the return of the paramilitary group known as Tonton Macoutes, which was created during the years of the Duvalier dynasty.

In an interview on Radio Metropole, Saint-Louis said the Jonassaint government will not permit the return of the group which was dissolved in 1986. He recalled that the Haitian Constitution authorizes only the Army and the police as armed corps. Saint-Louis urged the people to remain alert in case of a foreign invasion, however.

Franck Pierre, of the Capois La Mort organization (on Army salary), asked General Raoul Cedras, commander of the Haitian Armed Forces, to decree a general mobilization to face the foreign threat. Pierre also asked Cedras to reintegrate retired officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces to form a "Grand Military Council" and put the country on a war footing.

The leader of the extreme right organization urged Cedras to request Parliament and the president de facto to declare a state of siege in the country.

Meanwhile, the announcement about the resurging of the Tonton Macoutes continues sparking reactions from political leaders. Reynold Georges, of the (center-right) Alliance for the Liberation of Haiti, said the announcement is "a violation of and an injury to" the Constitution.

Eddy Volel, of the (center-left) Reunion of Christian Democrats, said that with this maneuver, the military will provoke a civil war in the country.

Deputy Claims Conditions To Overthrow Jonassaint Met

FL2705213194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpt] Deputy Antoine Joseph, member of the Movement To Establish Democracy in Haiti and former lower chamber president, has asserted that the Jonassaint government is illegal and unconstitutional and that he does not recognize the current power's authority. Deputy Joseph believes the government that was installed by a group of legislators and not by the entire legislative corps operates beyond the constitutional provisions provided for in that respect. Deputy Joseph, who noted friction between the executive, the parliament, and the position of the political parties, considers that all the conditions have been met to overthrow the Jonassaint government. [passage omitted]

St. Lucia

Antiguan Prime Minister's OECS Address

FL2805171094 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1935 GMT 27 May 94

[Address by Prime Minister Lester Bird at the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) meeting in St. Lucia on 26 May—recorded]

[Text] Chief Minister of Montserrat, Prime Minister Compton of St. Lucia, fellow ministers, members of our diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I wish to thank the chief minister of Montserrat and the prime minister of St. Lucia for the warm words expressed by both of you on my election to the prime ministership of Antigua and Barbuda.

As many of you are aware, I have been attending conferences of heads of government of the OECS [Organization of Eastern Caribbean States] from its inception. Indeed, you accorded me the distinct honor of allowing me to be its first chairman even though I was not a prime minister. In that sense, I spent the last 14 years in this council impersonating a head of government. And many of you spent the last 14 years in complicity. I am pleased that by electing to government the party which I have the honor to lead, the people of Antigua and Barbuda have chosen to relieve not only me of the role of impersonator but you of the burden of collusion.

On a serious note, I place on record my profound thanks to OECS heads of government past and present, who over the last 14 years, have treated me with such great consideration. Mr. Chairman, it is fitting for me that the first OECS heads of government conference I should attend as prime minister is held in St. Lucia. For on this island and under your wise and mature guidance, Mr. Chairman, our countries have together made many practical decisions which have advanced the economic and political interests of our subregion. Therefore, while coming to St. Lucia for the first time as prime minister is

for me a beginning, it is also a continuum for the beginning benefits from a solid foundation of experience gained in the council.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, more than anyone else I am conscious that in recent years Antigua and Barbuda appears to have stepped back from the regional movement. We appear to be standing apart, indifferent of the faith and fortunes of our regional kith and kin. This is not so. In this case, appearance belies reality. The vast majority of the people of Antigua and Barbuda continue to regard the Commonwealth Caribbean and the OECS, especially, as an extension of themselves. They are keenly aware that ultimately their authenticity as a culture group, their survival as an economic entity, and their political legitimacy in a world which increasingly marginalizes small and powerless states lies in concerted economic and political action with the Caribbean family and more particularly their West Indian brothers and sisters.

Over the last few years, Antigua and Barbuda has been preoccupied with its internal political affairs. Our preoccupation flowed from the fact that after more than 50 years in which he dominated political life in our country, Vere Cornwall Bird, Sr. was departing the national stage.

As you are aware, any change creates insecurity and uncertainty. When the change in power replaces a leader who over five decades symbolized dependability and safety to the nation, even greater apprehension arises. In such a milieu, as people search for something to fill the void, opportunities are created for the untried and the untested in whose hands neither Antigua and Barbuda's affairs nor the influence of such affairs upon neighboring territories could be certain.

Mr. Chairman, it is as well that in Antigua and Barbuda we took the time to settle our internal affairs for we have emerged from it a stronger and more stable democracy. While the campaigning was intense, our elections were conducted without violence or loss of life. The decision of the people was accepted peacefully by our two political parties, both of which are represented in parliament. We have now set to the task of governance through established democratic institutions, including a virulent if sometimes unnecessarily vicious, unfettered opposition press, enhancing, as it does, the space for free political expression and action. Such a democracy is good for the maintenance of stability in Antigua and Barbuda. It can only be beneficial to the security of the region as a whole and, particularly, to the member-states of this organization.

Mr. Chairman, our preoccupation with our internal political affairs led only to a lowering of regional concern on our national agenda, not to its removal. That decisive period in our nation's history is now behind us and we can again lift our eyes above the plane of national full contributions to the strengthening of our institutions. [sentence as heard]

We will play our part on the international stage to augment the bargaining strength of the OECS against third countries and groups of countries.

As we survey the global landscape, it appears beset with difficulties for our small island-states. An objective analysis paints a worrisome picture. The Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] area faces higher prices for goods and services imported from North America and Europe. Dwindling aid, increasing international rivalry for private capital, both loans and investments, is reducing shares of our two principal markets in Europe and North America and intensifying competition for tourism. It is becoming increasingly clear that the preferential market which our countries and others in the Caribbean community have enjoyed in the EC will, in fact, disappear. Already, trade preferences have increased, the share of Central American exports to the EC to approximately the same level as Caribbean exports. And recent developments arising from the negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade signal that bananas and sugar from the so-called (?dollar) countries, particularly Central America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean states, will enjoy an even bigger share of the EC market. Banana growers in our part of the Caribbean will not be competing on a level playing field. The absence of strict labor laws and, therefore, poor wages paid to Central American workers, combined with the resources of the U.S. companies which own many plantations and market the bananas, place eastern Caribbean countries at a severe disadvantage.

I need hardly tell this audience that any significant loss of the banana market in the EC by the Windward Islands will have a most distressing effect on the foreign exchange earnings of the eastern Caribbean dollar (?area) and on our (?reserves). In turn, this will adversely affect our ability to pay for the import of goods and services. The combined effect of less foreign exchange and a contraction of the import sector would lead to a consequential reduction in public sector programs and to unemployment. In short, economic decline could stare us in the face.

NAFTA offers no more promising an outlook for trade. Mexico's involvement in the free trade area with the United States and Canada threatens to adversely effect Caribbean exports to the U.S. and Canada, especially the assembly industry, textiles, and the apparel industry. The limited access provided to the U.S. market by the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI] and to Canada by the Caricom agreement pales into insignificance when compared with the access Mexico will enjoy on the NAFTA. When Mexico's comparatively lower labor costs and its proximity to the U.S. market is factored into the equation, the Caribbean will obviously lose market share. By the same token, hurrying into NAFTA as it stands is not desirable in our opinion. Free trade groups from NAFTA would cripple, if not kill, many of our industrial enterprises, whose production could not match their cheaper prices.

In this connection, we must renew our efforts to seek parity with Mexico for Caribbean goods that now enter the U.S. market under the CBI while we negotiate ways to enter NAFTA with agreed mechanisms to relieve the effects of reciprocal free trade with three giants such as the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Mr. Chairman, we, together with other Caribbean Basin countries, are not without some collective bargaining strength in relation to NAFTA. CBI beneficiary countries have increased their spending in the United States. Purchases of U.S. goods and services grew from \$340 million in 1986 to \$11 billion in 1992, providing for 200,000 direct jobs and 1 million indirect jobs in the United States. And with many of our countries, the U.S. enjoys a balance of trade surplus. But we, in the OECS and the wider Caricom, have to forge strategic coalitions or alliances with other countries or groups of countries to promote our interests. In this context, an alliance with other Caribbean Basin countries is imperative. For without such an alliance, large groupings such as NAFTA and the EC, faced with contending interests from Central American countries, on the one hand, and Caricom countries, on the other, may find it very difficult to be evenhanded in their treatment. We may well be the losers.

Further, to the extent that Caricom countries could agree a joint position with Central American countries and the Dominican Republic for negotiations with NAFTA and the EC, to that extent we can expect no collective bargaining position. The decision by Caricom heads of government to adopt the recommendation of the West Indian commission and create an association of Caribbean states is extremely important. However, we should guard against the possibility of such an association unintentionally becoming the servant of its most powerful masters and accidentally neglecting the interests of its smaller and weaker members, which is what Caricom states would be. It is essential that the association reflects the consensus and interests of its membership and that it be dominated by no one country or group of countries, that it mediate contending views between different groups, and that it construct a relationship among its members that serves the community of interests.

In this regard, Mr. Chairman, I repeat a position which I (?enunciated) last month in Basse-Terre, when in the presence of our colleague, the prime of St. Kitts, I spoke at the 12th annual banquet of the St. Kitts and Nevis private sector. I said then...[pauses] And I strongly favor the location of the headquarters of the association of Caribbean states in Jamaica, which sits almost geographically between the English- and Spanish-speaking Caribbean Basin countries. After all, it was to Jamaica that the great father of Latin American liberation, Simon Bolivar, retreated after his earlier failure to liberate Venezuela from Spanish domination. It was from there that he issued his famous Jamaica Letter, which set a successful plan for the independence of so many Latin American states, including Bolivia, named after him.

Both historically and geographically, Jamaica lends itself as a hospitable location for the headquarters of the association. I hope that in this meeting, we, in the OECS, would endorse this suggestion, that Jamaica should be the location of the headquarters and that we could jointly advance the idea in the councils of Caricom and the wider Caribbean Basin area.

Another element in our approach to the issue of NAFTA should be the special relationship that Caricom countries have always enjoyed with Canada. As the West Indian commission pointed out in its report, and I quote, together, we are the Commonwealth countries of the hemisphere; that shared history has forged strong ties over the years and provides a natural bond; there is every reason why we should seek to engage the Canadian Government at the highest level in working out our arrangements.

To me, to Antigua and Barbuda, it is a significant indication of Canada's continuing goodwill to the Caribbean that last month the Canadian International Development Agency agreed to finance a Caricom study on the likely effects of NAFTA and the strategy options for the community. A Canada-Caricom-heads-of-government conference would be beneficial to this process at this time. Perhaps we in the OECS can take the initiative in trying to structure such a meeting at the earliest opportunity.

What about the United States, itself? We have to be cognizant of how Washington works. It is a city of lobbying, whether we like it or not. We will get little movement beyond what the U.S. Government thinks it can sell to Congress unless we help to accelerate that movement ourselves. And to do so, we have to mount a lobby in Washington that includes but does not rely solely on our embassies there. Contact has to be made with every congressman and senator. That could make a difference to how we are treated in NAFTA. We have to inform them, educate them, and win them over, if not all, the majority. Jamaica has had lobbyists in Washington for some time. The Cheddi Jagan government, in Guyana, has had lobbyists since it won the election in 1992. And, significantly, Trinidad and Tobago has announced that it too has employed a firm of lobbyists. We, in the OECS countries, should do no less if we expect to be heard by the ears of Washington.

With regard to the EC, Mr. Chairman, in the past, we tended to focus our efforts in Britain, neglecting the reality that many powers over trade and policy have passed to the EC and its executive agency, the European Commission, in Brussels. Lastly, there has been an attempt to strengthen our presence in Brussels, but it needs to be more permanent and in greater numbers. Our collective voting and lobbying strength is important. But to be able to utilize such voting and lobbying strength in Brussels, we require a prominent presence, working in a coordinated way.

I know that we have all agreed to have Mr. (Larocque) represent us. I would like, however, in the course of this meeting to suggest that we have to deal with the question of our voting rights, as to whether or not we will vote as one or we will vote with the full impact of our several votes. Increasingly, too, lobbying efforts have become as important in Brussels as the European Commission evolves into a labyrinth of discreet decisionmaking departments. It may serve the OECS well to consider retaining well-placed lobbying experts and, on a joint basis, to supplement the work of closely coordinated missions.

Mr. Chairman, as we survey our regional scene, it is striking that Haiti stands out as the country in dire need of attention. Its attempt to establish a democratic system of government after two centuries was aborted by a military coup, supported by a financial elite opposed to economic and political reform. As countries committed to democracy, free and fair elections, and the unfettered expression of the will of the people, it is axiomatic that we find government and military force reprehensible. The weekly slaughter of hundreds of Haitians by agents of the military regime and the suffering of the vast majority of the dispossessed in this society are matters which cause us, as Caribbean people, even greater concern. That there is need for action to remedy the Haitian situation is beyond question. However, as small Caribbean states, we should view with some apprehension any suggestion of military

intervention unless such intervention were under the auspices of the United Nations and with the authority of the Security Council. As it stands, I would advised the established principle justifying (?new) intervention under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter a threat to peace does not appear at this moment to apply in the case, which creates a difficulty for us. [sentence as heard]

Mr. Chairman, the weekly reports of (?massive) rapes and mutilations and the continuous reports now that the current voluntary embargo is causing the suffering only for the poor, while the Army and its rich financial backers continue to enjoy a good life. Good conscience demands that to use our concerted efforts to call for a realistic remedy to this situation by the United Nations.

I hope at this meeting we can agree to make such a call and advance it in Caricom, the OAS, and the United Nations for the benefit of the Haitian people. It only remains for me to say, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of those of us who are privileged to be guests in St. Lucia, what a great pleasure it is to be here. St. Lucians are reputed to be generous by nature and charming by inclination. I have no doubt that before this visit has ended, many here will have found reason to support my testimony. In advance and in anticipation, Mr. Chairman, I thank you, the Government and the people of St. Lucia, for the hospitable environment which we all know we will enjoy. Thank you, very much for being patient with me. [applause]

Cuban Solidarity Group Protests Outside U.S. Embassy

PA3005170794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1527 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Mexico City, 30 May (NOTIMEX)—A group of 35 youths from the solidarity group Let's Go for Cuba have staged a protest in front of the U.S. Embassy because of U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli's presence in Mexico.

This Sunday, members of the organization displayed Mexican and Cuban flags and placed a coffin with an Uncle Sam dummy that would be burned bearing the words "Apply Article 33 (of the Constitution) to Torricelli."

The protesters explained that they burned the effigy to reject the democratic lawmaker's visit. Torricelli is well-known for his opposition to the signing of NAFTA as well as for promoting a tighter U.S. border and the Cuba Democracy Act establishing the commercial blockade against the island.

While the police guard remained alert, Jose Carrillo, main speaker at the "peaceful and symbolic demonstration," outlined the main points of the protest: "To declare Robert Torricelli persona non grata," an end of the 33-year-old U.S. blockade against Cuba, and the preferential sale of Mexican crude oil to the island.

Carrillo noted the historical solidarity between Mexico and Cuba and said that "to struggle for Cuba is to struggle for Mexico, dignity, independence, and sovereignty." He indicated that his group sent a letter to the Chamber of Deputies with 13,000 signatures requesting the shipment "under special conditions" of crude oil to Cuba, as well as stating Mexican support to end the U.S. blockade against that country.

At the end of the protest, Carrillo asserted that in a month, the solidarity group Let's Go for Cuba will send a third boat with hydrocarbons, medicine, and other kinds of aid to Cuba.

EZLN Communique on End of Assemblies

PA3105035094 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 May 94

[Report on 30 May Communique issued by the Zapatist National Liberation Army General Command on the end of consultations to discuss the proposal to reach a peace agreement in Chiapas, by reporter Juan Carlos Santoyo and unidentified announcer; from the "ACIR Radio News" Newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Santoyo] Pepe, good afternoon to you and the audience. I have the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] communique in my hands. I will read its six basic points:

Brothers of the EZLN's Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command, we are contacting you to state the following:

1. The EZLN has already ended the consultations in all the towns that supported it by holding assemblies in the many towns, ejidos, rural slums, and hamlets that support and sympathize with the EZLN's just cause. Zapatist men, women, children, and elders analyzed and discussed the 32 proposals made by the federal government and the 34 demands made by the San Cristobal Zapatist group.

2. The men, women, children, and elders who, in 1993, voted to start the war and all those who have joined the EZLN taught the country a lesson in liberty and freedom by exercising their right to freely choose the EZLN.

3. The EZLN also received opinions and comments by all other Mexican social sectors. We will take into account the wisdom expressed by the suggestions made by our brothers, Indians, peasants, workers, students, teachers, housewives, nongovernmental organizations, Mexicans living abroad, intellectuals, and honest artists.

4. As of 31 May 1994, the EZLN is in a state of permanent assembly to start counting votes, to analyze the opinions received, and to give a reply as the supreme leadership of the EZLN's military and civilian forces.

5. All access to territories under EZLN control will be closed to the national and international media while the counting and analyses is in process. The results will be released through a communique issued by the supreme leadership.

6. The date and place to hold a news conference to inform Mexico and the world of EZLN decisions will be given in due time.

As usual, Subcommander Marcos signed this communique from somewhere in the mountains of the Mexican southeastern region.

Thus, the EZLN takes a major step regarding a consultation that was expected to reach a prompt conclusion. We have also received reports indicating that Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, might be arriving in San Cristobal de las Casas in the coming hours. Camacho Solis is expected to issue a communique on the Chiapas situation, and especially, to give details of a program he discussed with legislators two weeks ago during a meeting. This program, which was called aggressive, seeks to provide answers to all doubts and demands expressed by the EZLN in regard to the San Cristobal agreements. Thus far, this is the situation here in San Cristobal de las Casas and gradually, a second dialogue seems to be closer to becoming a reality. Many, however, are convinced that a second dialogue could not take place very soon, but the two conflicting parties are expected to give a concrete answer on the steps to follow regarding this peace and reconciliation talk.

[Announcer] Is this EZLN communique addressed to a specific person?

[Santoyo] No. It is addressed to the Mexican people, peoples and governments worldwide, and the national and the international media. It is not addressed to anyone in particular.

[Announcer] Reports from San Cristobal de las Casas indicate that complaints have been made that, precisely, the EZLN has been telling the international media that, there are planes and helicopters flying over EZLN-controlled territory, just 136 days away from the date when this activity will be banned.

[Santoyo] That is true. There is a second communique in this regard that has been addressed to SEMANARIO NACIONAL, PROCESO, LA JORNADA, EL FINANCIERO, and EL TIEMPO. In this communique, Sub-commander Marcos, the signer, makes a traditional report of their current situation in the jungle. Marcos does indicate that following the 15 May event, helicopters have been spotted in addition to planes. Cooks complain that there will not be enough pots if they decide to land at the same time. Marcos includes in this communique—a very long one, some seven pages—a sort of poetic report of everything they are currently experiencing in the Lacandon jungle. He basically says that the consultations are over. The communique also includes a part addressed directly to the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD]. This part constitutes a long point and refers to the PRD saying a few days ago that more people have died within the PRD because of political strife than within the EZLN. Marcos notes in this communique that, even if they are right on the fact that more people could have died, what is truly significant is that currently in this Chiapas location, efforts are being implemented to make these peace and reconciliation negotiations benefit all Indian and peasant peoples nationwide.

Marcos adds that as it is true that people have died, so it is that there is sacrifice and bloodshed involved in every struggle. They do not say, however, that currently, it is hard for the country to assume this sacrifice. There is also another section of the communique that says criticism is always welcome from pontiff to pontiff. Finally, they will be able to accuse us of being untimely; ignoring the correlation between forces; practicing political miscalculation; lacking [word indistinct] to watch the debate live; lacking subscriptions to major newspapers and magazines to learn about post-debate evaluations; being unkind and rude; suffering from mountain sickness; not recognizing possible allies; being sectarian, intransigent, and ill-tempered. We can be accused of everything, but not of being consistent. All we have done is place a trigger [gatillo] on hope, this communique concludes. This communique answers all the criticisms raised within the PRD regarding the famous visit made by PRD presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano. On this occasion, he received very blunt

criticism from the EZLN, and specifically, from Sub-commander Marcos. [end recording]

Israeli Foreign Minister Interviewed on Visit

PA2805164294 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 28 May 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Jacobo Zabudovsky; Peres in English with superimposed translation into Spanish; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live]

[Text] [Zabudovsky] Good evening, Mr. Peres. Thank you for granting us this interview.

[Peres] Thank you.

[Zabudovsky] Mr. Peres, Israel and Mexico have had diplomatic relations since 1952. What is the current state of these relations?

[Peres] Between Mexico and Israel?

[Zabudovsky] Yes, please.

[Peres] Well, first of all, Mexico has changed considerably. It is not the same Mexico since I last visited. I think Mexico is in the middle of a change and in the future it will undergo greater change. Soon, we will see great economic, social, and other changes in Mexico. I have a lot of admiration for all that Mexico has achieved and is achieving.

Israel has also changed. We went through many wars; we won them and now we are waging the greatest war of all, which is the war for peace. I am sure that we will win this war as well.

We would like to establish cooperation with Mexico in four different areas. In the economic area, we would like to have a parallel agreement between Mexico and Israel like the one that exists between the United States of America and Israel. Second, we would like to avoid double taxation. Third, we would like to establish scientific and technological cooperation between Mexico and Israel. Fourth, and most important from my viewpoint, is the need to strengthen our cultural exchanges. Mexico, like the rest of Latin America, is a great continent for literature, art, painting, and sculpture. In Israel, culture is a priority. I think we should bring our respective countries' authors and the readers together to have a cultural exchange and not only political and economic exchanges.

[Zabudovsky] Can you tell us about relations between Israel and the Vatican?

[Peres] That is really something sensational. For the past 1,994 years, our relations with the Catholic world have had their ups and downs, more downs than ups. For the first time, we have reached an understanding that was formulated by the Vatican and Israel. In January of this year, we signed an agreement to exchange ambassadors.

The signing of the agreement was done in Jerusalem. It is a dramatic, historic, and religious change between two important religions. This is the result of a diplomatic event that happens once every 2,000 years and I am very glad that it happened this year. I am looking forward to a new understanding for tolerance between the Christian world and the Jewish world. I have had the pleasure to invite the Pope to visit Israel and I understand that he will do it in the near future. He told me that the Lord extended his life so that he would be able to visit Israel, Jerusalem, and the Holy Land.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. Peres, you have been one of those who made many efforts to attain peace with the PLO. What is currently happening in the Middle East?

[Peres] I think the Middle East will change like the rest of the world. There is a new wind blowing all over the place. What is happening today is that the real political strengths are neither the political parties, nor the traditional armies, nor the influential super powers. The most important force is this camera because people, young and old, are waking up every morning and seeing what is happening in the world. They ask themselves: Why is it that in other countries people can move around freely, have a better life, and behave in a civilized manner? They ask themselves: What is wrong with our country?

For example, I believe that what brought down communism was not an army, invasion, or party. What brought communism down was information of what was happening in the world. The silver curtain became stronger than the iron curtain. The government could no longer lie to the people. The same is happening in the Middle East. Whatever you see today is what happened yesterday. Tomorrow, and perhaps even today, young people, Arab, Palestinians, Israeli, Christian, Muslim, and Jew, will try to compare their lives with the lives of others and ask: Why should we have wars? Why should we waste hundreds of millions of dollars on weapons? Why should we support a dictatorship? Dictatorships in our days have become so expensive that only the rich countries can have dictatorships. The poor people are no longer willing to pay for the craziness and egomania of dictators. I deeply and sincerely believe that in the near future, the next generation will prefer peace, freedom, and science. That is the future.

[Zabludovsky] What is the future of Jerusalem?

[Peres] Jerusalem is politically closed and religiously open. Throughout history, Jerusalem has never been the capital of Arab life. On the other hand, in Jewish life, we have never had another capital but Jerusalem. Jerusalem is not only the capital of our prayers, but the capital of our existence. So we are not going to divide Jerusalem; we are not going to turn Jerusalem into a Berlin; we are not going to divide Jerusalem and build a wall. It will remain united as the capital of Israel. But while politically it is closed, religiously it will remain open. Every believer, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, who wishes to come and pray to God in his language, in his tradition, in his

church, mosque, or synagogue, will have the right and the opportunity to do so. It will be our responsibility to secure his free coming, to secure his free worship, to respect his own faith and his own heritage and tradition.

[Zabludovsky] Were you pleased with the explanation Mr. 'Arafat gave to the call to a Holy War for Jerusalem?

[Peres] No. 'Arafat is using the language of yesterday. It is old and dangerous. But when it comes to policies, he made a change. So when I judge 'Arafat by his words I feel very bad; but when I judge 'Arafat by his decisions, I feel that we must continue and provide peace for Palestinians and Israelis.

[Zabludovsky] Do you trust 'Arafat?

[Peres] Do I talk to him? Oh, my God, day and night. You know, in the Middle East you shake hands during the day and you negotiate at night. I have forgotten what a morning is like because usually the negotiations begin late at night and go through the night. There have been many long nights, some of them extremely complicated and difficult.

[Zabludovsky] Will Israel withdraw its support for Arab autonomy?

[Peres] I am sorry, I did not get the question.

[Zabludovsky] Could Israel suddenly back out of the Palestinian autonomy issue?

[Peres] Who?

[Zabludovsky] Israel.

[Peres] No. We made up our minds. In many ways we are negotiating with ourselves more than with the Palestinians. The reason why we are negotiating—and we are on the giving side and not on the receiving side—is because we do not want to become, or remain, a dominating nation. Jewish history is 4,000 years old. Never in our lives did we control, govern, or dominate other people. The people who tried to dominate us have disappeared from history. We do not want to dominate the Palestinian people or Palestinian life. We would like to see the Palestinians elect their leaders, nominate their judges, appoint their police, have the right economy, raise their standards of living, and become good neighbors. They will be our neighbors and Israel will be their neighbor and neither of the two should attempt to impose their will on the other.

[Zabludovsky] Can a similar agreement be reached with Syria on the Golan Heights?

[Peres] It is possible, but, for the time being, President al-Asad has not opened up. He is speaking about normalizing relations with Israel, but how can he normalize relations with Israel if he is not willing to normalize negotiations with Israel? We cannot conduct negotiations in a narrow channel full of microphones. We negotiate and there is no progress. We believe that if

al-Asad wants peace then he must do it as it is being done at the end of the 20th century. These negotiations must be open, conducted at political level and highly professional. These negotiations must be conducted with the knowledge of the people. The parties meeting in private must do so with the knowledge of the people because it is not a negotiation between leaders but between peoples. Today, everyone is a diplomat and everyone is a judge. We would like to see the Israeli people convinced that Mr. al-Asad means business. He wants something from us that is tangible, a mountain. We want something from him that is not tangible, peace. Now peace must be as clear as the mountain is.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. Peres, do you think it is possible for Israel to live in peace with its neighbors?

[Peres] Yes, Israel could and would live in peace with its neighbors if the neighbors do likewise. All the things that are important today in the lives of the people cannot be attained through war. Whatever war can achieve is no longer important. In the past 10 years, the Middle East spent a trillion dollars in weapons. This money was taken away from the mouths of the children; it was taken from their schools and their future. We do not have the right to continue doing this. With half that money, we would have been able to dramatically change the Middle East. I believe more and more Arabs are beginning to see this.

[Zabludovsky] Thank you Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Thank you.

Salinas, Israel's Peres Discuss Commerce

PA2805171294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 94

[Report By Rosie Watson Vasquez from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met today for 30 minutes with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at Los Pinos official residence. Peres came with some proposals that are already being studied so they can be implemented without delay. Those proposals include seeking a commercial agreement—and this is perhaps the most important proposal—similar to the one that has been in effect for some years between Israel and the United States.

Israel is setting its sights on Mexico because, Peres said, it is a nation that seeks markets and opportunities. During this private meeting, President Salinas de Gortari and Foreign Minister Peres also discussed ways to prevent double taxation which is hurting commercial exchange, to seek (?joint investments) for development and research in the field of science and technology, and to promote cultural exchange. On this latter point, it has been suggested that each country should select 10 works of literature, translate them into the other country's language, and publish them.

They also talked about the new structure that must govern the United Nations now that the division between communism and democracy, north and south, no longer exists, so the Third World countries can join the First World, Peres said. Following his private meeting with the Mexican president, the Israeli foreign minister hosted a news conference where he said the 21st century is full of perils and nations have to block the path of dictators, new wars, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons because we do not have much time left. This is the time, according to Peres, to buy a ticket for revolution and to understand revolution means change. He added, it is a time to be either spectators or actors. He felt Mexico had already purchased its front row ticket.

The Israeli official admitted that change has made the world more democratic and that the topic of protecting the ecology and living a free life go hand in hand. One advantage to all this is the movement of information, which travels in the sky as if it were air. Television, for example, is much stronger than the iron curtain of the communist system.

[Begin Peres recording; superimposed translation into Spanish in progress] ...this revolution. In all nations, Mexico is obviously one of those cases; this is a question of deciding whether to purchase a ticket, whether one is going to enter the next century in sitting a theater seat or as a participant or an actor. Changes in the world are as follows: first, the sources of wealth and power are now of an intellectual and not material nature. Everything depends on education, science, technology and no longer on the wealth of oil or gold mines. Before, oil constituted 80 percent of Mexican exports and industrial products were 20 percent. That relation has been reversed. [end recording]

Shim'on Peres arrived at Los Pinos and his movements around the city are conducted under tight security measures. A black Lincoln with him aboard leads five other cars with his personal bodyguards who issue orders in Hebrew, the official language of Israel. He has a stern and dry expression, but when he talks he becomes another person. He speaks in poetry. He said, for instance, that the task of our generation is to eliminate the desert from the earth, salt from the water, and violence from the people. That is how we will have a happy world.

He feels that despite the dangers looming over us there never can be another Hitler. To conclude, upon leaving Los Pinos, Salinas de Gortari informed Peres he would be traveling to Jerusalem next year. If the visit materializes, Salinas de Gortari would be going as a tourist since he would no longer be president, according to the electoral timetable.

[Station anchorwoman] Peres will conduct private activities in our country, right?

[Watson] That is right. He will remain here a few hours and then leave. He is on a tour of different Latin American countries.

Peres, Tello Review Cooperation

PA2905163094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1724 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Mexico City, 28 May (NOTIMEX)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the United States is the head of an overall moral operation for peace, stability, liberty, and security.

At the end of a 48-hour visit to Mexico, the diplomat stated there is currently no country that can replace the United States in its position before the world. "The United States is not the world's gendarme; it is the head of an overall moral operation for peace, stability, liberty, and security. It is not a matter of having a policeman; instead, it is a highly responsible country," he said.

Peres and Mexican Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello reported the acceptance of five Israeli proposals, which include negotiating a free trade agreement, avoiding double taxes, carrying out cultural exchange, and modifying Mexico's position at the United Nations.

The Mexican diplomat explained that Israel proposed negotiating the bilateral free trade agreement based on the agreement it has with the United States and said that this issue must be analyzed.

The Mexican diplomat said it will be necessary to get the text of the U.S.-Israel free trade agreement prior to the negotiations so the document can be studied by the Mexican trade secretariat to learn what commitments, rights, and obligations it entails. After adding that the next step will be to determine whether those issues are compatible with Mexican laws, Tello said there is certainly a willingness to negotiate the trade agreement.

The Mexican foreign secretary said the second point proposed by Peres to Mexico was to sign a treaty which prevents double taxes between the two countries. Work on this treaty is well ahead of schedule and is about to conclude; and all they will have to do is set the date for signing the document.

Tello indicated that another proposal is to sign an agreement to create a double fund that encourages research and development in various sectors, which shall be determined by the two nations.

The fourth point in Peres' proposal, he indicated, was to adopt specific measures to give an additional boost to cultural exchange, and the fifth point refers to the request that Mexico modify its position at the United Nations on environment issues.

Attorney General Orders PJF To Be Restructured

PA2705155194 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish
25 May 94 p 15

[Report by Angel Hernandez]

[Text] Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino has begun to totally restructure the Federal Judicial Police

(PJF) and he has ordered the "special groups" and the General Operations Coordinating Office to be dismantled. In addition, Benitez Trevino is reviewing the relationship of this corps with other agencies in an effort to make it more efficient and to prevent illegal actions.

Five commanders have been discharged and the files of the PJF's approximately 2,000 agents, all of whom will undergo drug testing, will be carefully reviewed. If evidence of irregular or criminal conduct is established, they will be discharged and legal action will be taken against them.

These actions are being viewed as a response to remarks by former Attorney General Diego Valades Rios, who has claimed that whenever PJF agents are discharged it is because they have drug abuse problems or are connected with drug traffickers. The PGR [Attorney General's Office], meanwhile, indicated that the measures correspond to the need to have a single command in the PJF.

Regarding the dismantling of the so-called "special groups," the PGR said this action was prompted by "special group" investigations that fell outside the Judicial Police General Directorate's jurisdiction and proved detrimental to citizens.

Commenting on the elimination of the General Operations Coordinating Office, which violated PGR regulations, was allegedly conducting investigations and had command over the PJF agents. [sentence as published] In light of this, Commanders Juventino Sanchez Gaytan, Agustin Montiel Lopez, Saul Salvatierra Garcia, Carlos Venegas Contreras, and Luis Alberto Zetina Suarez were discharged.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Benitez Trevino has also ordered a rigorous review of the condition and status of the approximately 2,000 PJF agents nationwide and evaluations of their individual performances in an effort to detect "bad" agents. If this review turns up evidence of any agent being involved in irregularities or illegal actions, appropriate administrative measures will be adopted and legal action will be taken.

A review of personnel will also be conducted to detect "reliable" or "commissoned" individuals, who are also known as "godmothers"—people who do not belong to the PJF but perform actions in support of the police corps. Those who have usurped powers, as well as the commanders and agents who have helped them do so, will be prosecuted.

Single Command of Judicial Police Confirmed

PA2705175594 Mexico City XEW Television Network
in Spanish 0430 GMT 27 May 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Today, Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino said the Federal Judicial Police (PJF) has only

one command and this will prevent corruption. Mr. Benitez Trevino made this statement as he replied to charges by some Catholic Church leaders who claim that agents in the PGR [Attorney General's Office] are involved in drug trafficking.

[Begin Benitez recording] Beginning yesterday, there is only one command in the PJF. This is the start of the reorganization of the police. [end recording]

Interviewed at the end of the first Ibero-American Congress on Copyrights, he said the entry of government employees into the PGR has been limited.

[Begin Benitez recording] The only way to obtain employment in the PJF, professional police service, or the PGR will be, solely and exclusively, through the Professional Training Institute. [end recording]

He reiterated that in the fight against corruption, no one is above the law. Benitez also admitted that crime has increased 5 percent in the Federal District over the past four months.

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA2605201794

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the elections scheduled for 21 August.

In Mexico City, officials from eight of the nine political parties have signed an Agreement for Electoral Transparency and Fairness. In the agreement, the parties committed to taking necessary steps to ensure that all stages of the electoral process are carried out within a framework of harmony, mutual respect, transparency, security, trust, and credibility. The director of the National Action Party (PAN) in Mexico City said: "Public funds should not be channeled to any political party." (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 20 May 94)

Federal District Mayor Manuel Aguilera Gomez has told the leaders of the eight political parties who signed the Agreement for Electoral Transparency and Fairness that Mexico City will not be held "hostage" to conflict caused by political differences among the various parties. Aguilera Gomez said: "If we want to live in peace, we must

adopt a policy of inclusion, not exclusion." (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 May 94 pp 1, 11)

The Chamber of Deputies has elected six new advisers who will form part of the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council in the upcoming 21 August elections. All of the advisers meet the legal requirement of not having belonged to or led any political party over the past three years. The main duty of these advisers will be to oversee the election's transparency and honesty. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 May 94)

PAN candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos claims that ever since the 11 May debate, attempts to tarnish his image have increased. "I have been accused of being an attorney for drug traffickers, a member of Opus Dei, and a member of secret organizations," Fernandez said. He said there is an attempt to undermine his platform in which he places his trust for democracy's victory in Mexico. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 May 94)

PAN candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos has spoken out in favor of modifying the Federal Labor Law in an effort to modernize it without taking back gains made in the area of workers rights. He also said there is an urgent need to democratize labor unions. He said: "For the sake of protecting the workers, we must seek measures that protect jobs and create structures that do not hinder the hiring of workers. We know that many times false protectionism only leads to unemployment." (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 94)

After a four-hour meeting, members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party's (PRD) National Executive Commission decided to accept a debate with Carlos Almaga, director of the National Voter Registration Office. The PRD will be represented by Samuel del Villar, and it was decided that the debate would last 53 minutes instead of 45, as had originally been proposed. The debate will take place at Federal Electoral Institute Headquarters. PRD leader Porfirio Munoz Ledo said: "Del Villar has a knowledge of the issues—legal as well as technical knowledge—and, therefore, we hope he can demonstrate what is evident: the fact that enormous errors exist in the electoral register." (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 94)

El Salvador

Calderon Sol Announces Names of New Cabinet

PA3105050794 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 May 94

[From the "Up-to-date" newscast]

[Text] President Elect Armando Calderon Sol on Monday officially announced the names of the people to compose his cabinet. According to Calderon, the cabinet is composed of ideologists, technocrats, professionals, and businessmen, each of the sectors represented equally, in contrast with the cabinet of President Cristiani where businessmen were predominant.

The new cabinet maintains some current cabinet officials. Others are well-known politicians, but there are many new faces.

Calderon will use some members of the Cristiani Administration in his cabinet. Minister of the Presidency Oscar Santamaria is staying as foreign minister. Defense Minister Humberto Corado, Education Minister Cecilia Cano, Norma de Dowe, the head of the National Reconstruction Secretariat, and Economy Minister Luis Enrique Cordoba will maintain their post.

Cristiani's cabinet was characterized by the presence of businessmen. The new president has said that his team will be well-balanced.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] This includes politicians, technocrats, and professionals. We have tried to have a well-balanced and effective cabinet, a cabinet composed of honest and capable men and women. [end recording]

Hugo Barrera, a businessman, will be deputy public security minister. He will be facing one of the most important challenges of the future government.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] He is well-accepted. He has a good reputation as a businessman. We want to give much emphasis to public security. We believe the people demand public security and full coverage of the National Civilian Police. [end recording]

Calderon Sol said that Vice President Enrique Borgo Bustamante will also be minister of the presidency. The interior minister will be Roberto Angulo, former president of the Salvadoran Parliament. The agriculture and livestock minister will be Carlos Mejia. Ricardo Montenegro, a businessman, will be finance minister.

Calderon Sol said that with this team he will continue the work initiated by President Cristiani, especially the social work. He disagreed with the church that Cristiani did not fulfill his promise to serve the poor.

[Begin Calderon recording] It has been evident that the level of poverty has dropped under the Cristiani administration. We have a big challenge in the social field, that of facing poverty and the national reconstruction effort. [end recording]

The autonomous institutions so far have confirmed Roberto Orellana as the head of the Central Reserve Bank. Juan Domenech will head the National Administration for Telecommunications.

Calderon Sol also announced that the national director of the National Civilian Police, Jose Maria Monterrey, has resigned but he did not report who will replace him.

Civilian Police Director on Threats

PA2905201894 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 May 94 p 6

[Text] Jose Maria Monterrey, director of the National Civilian Police (PNC), has confirmed he has received death threats and that 15 days ago he was the target of an attempt on his life.

"These actions come from sectors that have yet to understand the role of the new society and the democracy being experienced in the country," Monterrey told LA PRENSA GRAFICA. Monterrey said that for the past 20 days he has been receiving threatening phone calls and communiques both at his office and home. He added that investigations are being conducted to find out who is responsible.

The PNC director said that some of the threats have already been carried out, indicating that 15 days ago he was the target of an attack from which he emerged unharmed. As a result of this, he has been forced to take security measures. "I have never in my life had to use bodyguards; I have never even been armed. Unfortunately, I will have to take some precautions so as not to ignore these threats," he added.

Monterrey said the PCN has acted firmly against kidnappers, drug traffickers, car theft gangs, and individuals who have been illegally using weapons, so some of these sectors might be responsible for the threats. Monterrey denied that the PNC is becoming militarized, and he said the best witness of the process is Onusal [UN Observers For El Salvador], whose members have participated in the evaluation of the personnel joining the PNC.

He explained that, up to the PNC's 13th graduation class, the PNC filled 20 percent of the openings with individuals who had been members of the National Police, as was established in the Peace Agreements, but that from then on, these individuals have not joined the PNC.

Nevertheless, the director of the PNC, which was established by the Peace Agreements, said that at this 20th recruitment call the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National

Liberation Front] has been unable to complete its 20 percent, although it still has time to fill it.

According to Monterrey, the middle level ranks of the PNC are filled by persons who have obtained the best scores in their evaluations, so now there can be no discrimination.

The PNC is carrying out its functions in 12 of the country's 14 departments, and it is estimated that by the end of October it will be doing so throughout the country with 5,700 members.

President Alfredo Cristiani has rejected FMLN charges that the government is trying to militarize the PNC and proposed the creation of a commission to verify this.

Cristiani said the government and the FMLN agreed over the weekend that the demobilization of the National Police will be extended until 31 March 1995, because the PNC is still unable to face the increase in crime.

He added that they also agreed that an additional number of former National Police members, in excess of the 20 percent established by the Peace Agreements, can enter the PNC following an evaluation and training.

PNC Brigade Protects FMLN Personalities

PA2805000894 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 May 94

[Report by Alfredo Villareal; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Jose Maria Monterrey, director of the National Civilian Police (PNC), reported that a special PNC brigade protects FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leaders to prevent any attack on their personal safety. He also disclosed that he may possibly retire at the end of this month.

The various threats to well-known FMLN political leaders, including attacks in certain cases, such as the Nidia Diaz case, has forced the PNC to give 24-hour protection. A special police squad has been trained to protect FMLN personalities, Jose Maria Monterrey stated.

[Begin recording] [Monterrey] We give the so-called top FMLN leadership security protection with approximately 400 of our people who work in our personality protection division.

[Villareal] How is the investigation advancing into the death of this young bodyguard of a FMLN leader? Where is it headed?

[Monterrey] The investigation continues; I believe we will soon have results. I cannot say yet because the investigation is still incomplete. [end recording]

The police chief added that he has tendered an open resignation to the new government that will be sworn-in on 1 July.

[Begin recording] [Monterrey] If the president-elect wants to, my post will go to someone else.

[Villareal] Would you be willing to remain in the post?

[Monterrey] Yes, if the president requested me to.

[Villareal] But what about you, personally?

[Monterrey] I have already made an effort for nearly two years, with only one year to go, and would like to make this contribution with all the personnel who began this job. [end recording]

Jose Maria Monterrey, who made his resignation available from May, met this morning with judges and coroners representatives, in order to coordinate protection of these officials when they appear on death scenes at night in risky areas.

Foreign Minister Comments on Haitian Refugees

PA2805191294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1511 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] San Salvador, 28 May (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Salaverria has said that El Salvador cannot receive, even temporarily, Haitian refugees as suggested by the United States to all Central American countries.

According to an article published today in LA PRENSA GRAFICA, Salaverria said the United States is presenting this possibility not only to Central America, but to the Caribbean and some South American countries.

The government official explained that the United States has made this suggestion in light of the fact that hundreds of Haitians are fleeing their country because of the difficult political situation. The Haitians are leaving their country in boats, many of which are being intercepted at sea.

Foreign Minister Salaverria said that the United States is looking for a third country that will temporarily accept these people while the causes that motivated them to leave their country are investigated. If it is found that they fled their country for economic reasons, they will be returned to Haiti. However, if they fled for political reasons they will be allowed to enter the United States.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has said that the Salvadoran Government has not received an official request from the United States, but if it does, "this will have to be studied."

Salaverria said that El Salvador, a country that is still recovering from a 12-year war, saw many of its citizens flee to other countries, mainly the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

"Our duty is to improve our domestic situation to offer favorable conditions for the return of our fellow countrymen," the minister said. Salaverria added that the Salvadoran attitude does not "reflect a lack of sensitivity on our part, but rather it reflects our situation."

Meanwhile, Health Minister Gustavo Argueta said that El Salvador faces serious problems because it is the smallest country in the area and it is overpopulated; therefore, offering space to the Haitian refugees "would be illogical."

Guatemala

Government-URNG Peace Talks Conclude in Puebla

PA2805023094 Guatemala City Telesiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 26 May 94

[From the "Channel 7 News" newscast]

[Text] The Guatemalan Government and the National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity have outlined the guidelines for a national effort to solve in the short term the problem those persons displaced by the war, UN mediator Jean Arnault has reported.

On Wednesday, the delegates concluded four days of debates in Puebla, Mexico, on the resettlement of the displaced. The sides have decided to resume the talks next week and reach a definitive agreement on the subject.

The mediator has announced the postponement of the round of talks slated to be held from 31 May to 3 June in Oslo, Norway, where the creation of a commission to investigate human rights violations during the three-decades-long war will be discussed.

Government Spokesman: Talks Not 'Negative'

PA2805180594 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 26 May 94 p 2

[Text] Hector Rosada Granados, president of the Guatemalan Government's Peace Commission, said on 25 May that the outcome of the recently concluded round of negotiations cannot be called negative, and that if an agreement was not reached or signed, it is only because the topic is a very complex one.

In a statement made at La Aurora International Airport upon his return from Mexico City, Rosada explained that the parties believed it was necessary to discuss the topic further, because it involves a situation that must be analyzed thoroughly.

Rosada added that the discussion of the topic will conclude the week of 30 May since the parties have agreed to meet again for two more days. The dates and location have not been disclosed since they are still awaiting the summoning of UN Moderator Jean Arnault.

As for the reason the negotiation was stalled, Rosada refused to comment because since the talks are not over he could not make a public statement in this regard. However, Rosada did not deny that the reason for the delay in the talks might be linked to the Army high command stating that they plan to have command posts in the region of Ixcán, Quiché.

Regarding an increase in military activity by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, Rosada indicated that it contradicts the goal of negotiating a peace agreement. Rosada noted that it is not logical to sit at a negotiation table while engaging in violent actions.

This belligerent conduct will compel the state to take similar actions to counter the aggression. Any such actions by the government will be justifiable and impending because it is part of the government's constitutional mandate, Rosada concluded.

URNG Blames Government for Talks Failure

PA2805023994 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 May 94 p 2

[Text] The National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity [URNG] yesterday blamed the Guatemalan Government's "lack of goodwill" for the failure of the round of negotiations that concluded in Puebla, Mexico, yesterday.

Miguel Sandoval, member of the URNG's diplomatic team, criticized the government delegation for "trying to evade the negotiation, rejecting the civilian society's position, and refusing to discuss in Oslo immediately the creation of a Truth Commission."

In a communique transmitted to this newspaper, the CERIGUA News Agency quotes Sandoval and describes as "tense" the meeting that closed yesterday without agreements and in which the Army, the government, and the rebels held contradictory positions on the displaced population subject. According to CERIGUA, another point of disagreement was the government's intention to center the discussion on a cease-fire, which contradicts the already signed agreements, rather than the proposals of the sectors involved, proposals outlined in a Civilian Sectors Assembly document.

Honduras

Defense Minister Cited on Reductions in Army

PA2805021594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2036 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Armed Forces will continue to implement a plan to gradually reduce its military units due to "the lack of economic resources," Defense Minister General Reynaldo Andino Flores announced today.

The Army will dismantle artillery, armored cavalry, and infantry units due to lack of operating budget, based on

a plan drafted in 1989. The Armed Forces eliminated a battalion of territorial forces and an artillery brigade in 1992, "and we are going to continue with the reductions due to the current crisis in the country," Andino said without giving specific numbers.

The armored battalion, which has approximately 50 British and Israeli-made tanks and armored vehicles will be part of a single military unit to be installed at the Nicaraguan border, in the southern part of the country. A communications battalion currently stationed near Tegucigalpa will be merged with an infantry unit in the eastern part of the country. The Honduran Armed Forces are made up of approximately 24,000 soldiers, including at least 6,000 policemen.

Gen. Andino said the gradual reduction plan began five years ago. The military budget totals 270 million lempiras (a little over \$37 million) and according to Gen. Luis Alonso Discua, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, it has been reduced 10 percent more.

During the eighties, the Army received approximately \$500 million in U.S. military aid. The United States also armed the Nicaraguan "contras" in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan Sandinist Government from eastern Honduras. U.S. military aid, however, was drastically reduced in the nineties and currently amounts to less than \$1.5 million.

Congress Approves Auction of Foreign Exchange

PA2805233294 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish
27 May 94 p 6

[Report by Carlos Mauricio Flores]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—National Congress deputies yesterday approved a resolution permitting the Banco Central de Honduras [BCH] to auction off exchange as a means of stabilizing the lempira. The resolution compels assembly plants to sell to authorized exchange brokers the dollars needed for financing costs and operational expenses.

The Finance Ministry forwarded this proposal to Congress on Wednesday. The proposal suggests amending Article 1 of the Law on the Entry of U.S. Dollars From Exports because in the past few weeks there has been a tendency toward a rapid depreciation of the national currency caused mainly by speculation.

The congressional session was attended by BCH President Hugo Noe Pino, who briefed the deputies on the purpose of the measure and the BCH's reasons for it. U.S. dollars have been exchanged on the black market in several industrial zones, thus contributing to speculation's harmful effects.

Pino said the aggregate value of the assembly plants fluctuates between \$70 million and \$100 million. When

corporations need lempiras, they have been exchanging some of this amount on the black market rather than through registered brokers.

It was reported that the changes are aimed at eliminating legal obstacles so that if necessary the BCH can auction U.S. dollars for as long as deemed advisable to try and stabilize the lempira, a mechanism that has been used in other countries with satisfactory results.

Article 1 used to forbid the BCH to auction U.S. dollars. But the amendment permits use of this instrument of monetary policy.

The amended article states: Foreign exchange from exports is a national economic property. Persons or legal entities that export goods must report to the BCH in advance every export, the amount, value, and destination of the goods to be exported, the probable date of the export, and the type of currency in which payment will be received.

"Export of goods originating in free zones, industrial zones of processing for export, retail exports, and those made by assembly plants according to the regulation of this law shall be excepted. Nevertheless, the foreign exchange transacted by persons or legal entities in free zones or industrial processing zones, including operators and assembly plants, to defray costs or expenses in local currency, will have to comply with BCH instructions."

At the outset, Carlos Kattan, National Party deputy for Cortes Department, who almost never attends congressional sessions, opposed a proposal to exchange foreign currency through brokers, who would then report to the BCH. Arguing for his position, Kattan said this procedure scares away investors because it could be regarded as state interventionism.

The motion was ultimately withdrawn. Congress President Carlos Flores Facusse said that this measure will help stabilize local currency.

Foreign Minister Announces Joining of NAM

PA2605205394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1740 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 May (NOTIMEX)—Honduras will officially join the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) on 30 May, Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar confirmed today. In remarks to NOTIMEX, Paz explained that Honduras was not allowed into the NAM during the past decade, when the country served as a base of operations for the Nicaraguan contras who were fighting the Sandinist regime. The official indicated that the nonaligned countries agreed to let Honduras join its ranks in the wake of the inauguration of President Carlos Roberto Reina, who is regarded as a leader of social democratic ideas and defender of human rights.

Paz, who will be the first Honduran foreign minister to participate in a meeting of that organization, said that he will attend the NAM conference with an "optimistic"

attitude and that the conference will be held from 30 May to 6 June in Cairo, Egypt.

He added that he will attend the meeting with confidence that the new realities ruling the world will provide just and equitable participation to the Third World countries in that international movement.

Nicaragua

Foreign Minister on U.S. Haitian Refugee Request

PA2905035794 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
28 May 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Alfonso Malespin Jiron]

[Text] Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has confirmed that the United States has asked the Nicaraguan Government to allow the entry of some of the thousands of Haitians who are fleeing the reign of terror in their country. The minister explained that the U.S. State Department made the same request of all Central American countries.

"We have received a note asking us to welcome Haitians. The request is being studied," he said, while explaining that Nicaragua is a country with too many problems relating to poverty and social instability.

Ramiro Gurdian, the president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), astonished upon learning of the offer, asked: "What are we to do with them?"

Gurdian said he believes the Haitians are fleeing their country in search of work and in order to escape the insecure situation in which they live.

Gurdian expressed his assurance that "there are no incentives in Nicaragua. Perhaps the U.S. Government could finance projects in exchange for our accepting them. We do not really know what is behind all this."

The business leader concluded by saying that "it would be a problem for them to come into the country, because we have no sources for jobs." Nevertheless, the foreign minister announced that the Clinton administration's petition is being studied by President Violeta Chamorro.

Vilma Nunez, director of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Center (Cenidh), said that by accepting the Haitian refugees "from a humanitarian standpoint, Nicaragua would regain its status as a sanctuary nation."

But Nunez added that "from a realistic standpoint, the country is in no condition to accept the refugees, unless they bring their own bread."

"I do not think it would do any good to send refugees to a country that lacks the appropriate conditions, where they would be cast aside, humiliated, and discriminated against, and where they would go hungry," Nunez argued.

Attorney Alejandro Bravo contended that "if I were a Haitian I would not set sail for Nicaragua. It would be going from bad to worse."

He added that the U.S. Government looks upon Haitians as scum because they speak no English, they are black, and they are unskilled. Therefore, their logic is that "there is nothing better than to send them to another country that they also regard as scum."

Oscar Tellez, an attorney and former Nicaraguan ambassador to the Dominican Republic, agreed with accepting Haitian refugees in coordination with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (ACNUR).

Criticism in CODEHUCA

But he noted that "this would have to be done in conjunction with a great effort by all Central America directed at getting Bertrand Aristide back into power. Until now, the OAS and the United States have had a weak position on the government of Raoul Cedras."

Abel Santamaria, secretary general of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees of Panama, called the U.S. request "inhuman" and added that it demonstrates the lack of compassion and real democracy on the part of the United States. Santamaria is attending the forum organized by the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America [CODEHUCA].

It is the United States and the economic measures it has applied through international financial organizations that is preventing poor countries, like those in Central America, from attaining a balanced development. This now is a compassionless measure that violates human rights, he criticized.

Meanwhile, Carmen Caney, a member of the Guatemalan delegation participating in the human rights forum, added that it is inhumane for the United States to discriminate against the Haitians fleeing their country.

The Guatemalan delegate pointed out that "the majority are black, for which they are discriminated against. This is also discrimination against the poor countries, which already are facing enormous economic problems." She concluded that "besides being discriminatory, then, this measure will only worsen our own problems."

Legislative Assembly Approves Drug Law

PA3005015594 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 28 May 94 p 7

[Text] The Legislative Assembly yesterday approved the full Drug Law aimed at combating drug trafficking. This law provides judicial ruling for attention to drug addicts who, instead of prison terms, will be provided with rehabilitation. This will be an obligation of the Nicaraguan State.

The law, approved by a majority of votes, provides that those who are not authorized to cultivate or harvest

seeds or plants from which psychotropic substances are obtained will be punished with a prison term ranging from three to 12 years and a 3,000-50,000-cordoba fine.

The legislation provides sentences for those who stock drugs as well as for those who promote and encourage their consumption. The sentence could be increased up to double for those who induce minors. The deputies fixed sentences that range from 15-30 years and fines of up to 5 million cordobas for drug trafficking chiefs.

Deputy Doris Tijerino, president of the parliamentary drug committee, said that the law provides for light sentences for those who, because of necessity, become victims of drugs, while she reiterated the state's obligation to arrange for the rehabilitation of drug addicts. The deputy gave as an example (with regard to the fines that drug traffickers should pay) that the fines imposed by the police are serving to improve the salaries of the police officers who earn meager salaries.

The Assembly resolved that the fines collected by the state for drug-related crimes should be allocated to the rehabilitation of drug addicts and that these fines should be heavy when it is a matter of individuals who obtain economic benefits through trafficking.

As of 1990, Nicaragua started to become a sort of "springboard" or "transfer" [preceding word in English] of cocaine from the south, by South American drug cartels. This situation has put on alert the government, the community, and the very legislators even though the police force—with the support of the DEA—has staged significant drug busts on Nicaraguan territory.

Nongovernmental organizations that give attention to persons addicted to drugs such as cocaine, crack, marijuana, and others, have indicated that in our country there are approximately 300,000 persons who consume diverse types of drugs.

Article Suggests FSLN Ouster of Ramirez 'Trick'

PA2805033294 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
26 May 94 pp 1, 18

[Unattributed article: "Plan Is Reportedly To 'Clean Up His Image' as a Candidate; Sergio Ramirez' Expulsion, A Trick?"]

[Text] The so-called "hardline" of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], which emerged the winner in the party's special congress, is also seeking to topple Dr. Sergio Ramirez as leader of the parliamentary bloc. Monica Baltodano, after being elected a member of the National Directorate, said that "some decisions regarding the operation of the Sandinist bloc will be made."

Baltodano, who is characterized by maintaining radical positions, added that the congress did not discuss a motion making "the Sandinist Assembly the body responsible for appointing the head of the Sandinist

bloc." Baltodano said that "the head of the Sandinist bloc should be a member of the National Directorate [DN]." Ramirez, the current bloc leader, was purged from the DN.

Rumors that the removal of Ramirez from the DN could be just another Sandinist trick to "clean his image" to be a presidential candidate intensified today. If he wins, Daniel Ortega and his people would join Ramirez in sharing power as in the eighties. The two Sandinist newspapers today redoubled their support for Dr. Ramirez despite his defeat in the party's internal elections, and this seems to be a significant development.

Dr. Ramirez, who headed a current that opposed Ortega, tendered his resignation yesterday to the plenary of the Sandinist parliamentary bloc, but it was not accepted. "We rejected Ramirez' resignation and ratified him unanimously," said Dora Maria Tellez during a news conference.

Sandinist sociologist and economist Oscar Rene Vargas told BARRICADA yesterday that there will reportedly be purges within the FSLN. Vargas quoted "Democratic Left" spokesman Julio Lopez as saying that the following will be purged: BARRICADA Director Carlos Fernando Chamorro, EL NUEVO DIARIO Deputy Director Dr. Danilo Aguirre Solis, and Sandinist bloc leader Dr. Sergio Ramirez. Alejandro Serrano Caldera, rector of the UNAN [National Autonomous University of Nicaragua], will reportedly be replaced by Javier Pichardo.

"The appointment of the Sandinist bloc leader has so far been an internal election," Baltadano said, suggesting that the Sandinist Assembly will intervene in the affairs of her party's parliamentary bloc. "If the Sandinist Assembly has received the mandate of electing, from among DN members, the secretary for organization and the secretary for international relations and propaganda, with much added reason the Sandinist Assembly will have a much greater role in the leadership of the Sandinist bloc," she added.

William Ramirez said yesterday, during a news conference in which Sergio Ramirez was ratified as bloc leader, that the bloc has its own internal rules. "There is no need to be a member of the DN or member of the Sandinist Assembly to become bloc chief, deputy chief, or member of a bloc committee," William Ramirez added. He pointed out that Dr. Sergio Ramirez was not a DN member when he became leader of the parliamentary bloc.

At the special congress, Sergio Ramirez followers obtained 30 percent of the Congress delegates' votes compared to an overwhelming 70 percent obtained by Ortega's supporters.

FSLN Directorate Member Supports Changes in Media

PA2705022594 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
24 May 94 pp 1, 3

[By Jorge Katin]

[Text] In her first statements to the media minutes after being elected to the National Directorate [DN] of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], Commander Monica Baltodano called for editorial changes in BARRICADA.

She thinks that following its Congress the FSLN "has an opportunity to draft a better program for the 1996 elections. We now have all the necessary elements for establishing a new party that will create more democratic possibilities," Baltodano added, however, that the idea is not to subtract from but to add to the party.

When asked about the possible removal of certain cadres from the party, Monica Baltodano admitted that there will be "some separations, but only of mid-level cadres, not of national figures."

"Any defeat involves frustrations and negative responses," Baltodano noted. She added that the group which until yesterday was called Current of the Majorities suffered "a political defeat."

Baltodano rejected any possibility of implementing a policy of "revenge" against those she termed political losers. "If we were not vengeful toward the Somoza guardsmen, how can we be vengeful against companeros in our own ranks?"

The Media

Baltodano said the ambiguous ownership of certain media such as Radio Ya and Canal Cuatro will be among the topics discussed at the new Sandinist Assembly.

Reporter William Roiz asked Baltodano whether there will be changes in BARRICADA. She replied: "Definitely, because most of the new DN members think BARRICADA's editorial policy should be changed. We will discuss it in the next few days, but by no means are we talking about a sweep."

[BARRICADA Director] Carlos Fernando Chamorro was on Canal Dos' "Good Morning" program yesterday, and a viewer called to ask about his possible dismissal in view of Baltodano's statements.

"Is that the democracy of Sandinism you have spoken about?" the viewer asked.

Chamorro replied that he had not heard Baltodano's statements so he could not answer the question. "I refuse to believe this is true. But if it is, the alleged unity and democracy proclaimed at the Congress would be a complete farce," he added.

Chamorro admitted, however, that there are profound differences of opinion about the media. "Some think that newspapers such as BARRICADA should be paripartisan [parapartidario] instruments of power subject to the party's control. I think BARRICADA is a democratic newspaper that has gained broad credibility in this country and that it must endure without becoming a propaganda tool again," he added.

Doris Tijerino Speaks Out

Doris Tijerino, who was not elected to the DN despite having been nominated by nearly all departments, said the Congress achieved some important things, including electing women to 30 percent of the positions and a high Atlantic Coast representation.

"Most importantly, for the first time there were currents with different positions voicing their views. This had never happened in the FSLN before, but that doesn't mean the unity was broken," Tijerino said. She added that more needs to be done in terms of tolerance of political ideas.

As for her exclusion from the DN, Tijerino said the Congress delegates were not wearing a straitjacket, and although much was said about respecting the results of consultations with the rank and file, "the decisions of the Congress are sovereign, and I respect them."

Contrary to Baltodano's claim that one current dealt a "political defeat" to another, Tijerino said that "when two different ideas clash within a party, the goal is to find the truth, not to defeat each other. Commander Baltodano's assessment was wrong," Tijerino added.

FSLN Leaders Reject Proposed Changes to BARRICADA

PA2705031194 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
25 May 94 p 4

[By Noel Irias]

[Text] Fernando Cardenal, a member of the Sandinist Assembly, said yesterday that "imposing an editorial line on BARRICADA would be a serious setback to the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and the country's democratization process."

Cardenal said the newspaper's editorial line offered broad opportunities for debate among Sandinists before the Congress, and "everyone who wanted to express his views was able to do so."

"BARRICADA reported the debate in a serious, broad, and ethical way. Its work was serious and responsible," Cardenal stressed.

According to former Education Minister Cardenal, divisions result when there is no opportunity for debate. "As long as there is debate, there is less of a chance of divisions," he commented.

"I think BARRICADA gained prestige because of its credibility. Ambassadors and foreign personalities have told me that BARRICADA is the most serious, responsible, and trustworthy newspaper in the country.

Cardenal, who stressed that he was speaking as a Sandinist, not as a member of any group or tendency, noted that no group should fall to the temptation to impose its authority on other members.

"Authority is not imposed by force. Ideas are imposed by the force of their truth and conviction," he said.

Jose Gonzalez, FSLN political secretary in Matagalpa and member of the Sandinist Assembly, stressed that the mandate received at the FSLN Congress was unity and that his party cannot "afford to change cadres with great experience as if they could be discarded."

"In the case of BARRICADA, it is not a matter of going back and making it what it used to be during the revolutionary government, when it was an appendage of the DAP [Agitation and Propaganda Department], DOR [Department of Organization and Masses], and DEP [Department for Propaganda and Political Education]. Anyone who thinks that way is mistaken. We must open more opportunities for all sectors so they can express their views," Gonzalez said.

He added: "We know that newspapers must compete for readers and publicity. A media that speaks only for the FSLN is not feasible. BARRICADA must express the people's feelings. It should be objective and maintain a balance. It should reflect the criteria of workers, the private sector, the government, and grass roots organizations."

On possible changes in BARRICADA's editorial line, Gonzalez said it should be discussed at the Sandinist Assembly but that the discussion should be frank, sincere, and two-way.

Seeking Balance

Deputy Natan Sevilla said that BARRICADA, as a newspaper organically linked to the FSLN, "should transcend the daily pulse of debates, where there are occasional attacks from one side or the other."

"If one of the FSLN's objectives is preparing for the 1996 elections, BARRICADA can contribute significantly toward placing the Sandinist overall political interests in the forefront and leave less opportunity for quarrels," he said.

"That is why some people criticize BARRICADA, saying that it favors one side over the other. We must balance opinions," Sevilla said.

Radio Catolica Off Air Due To Equipment Theft

PA2805192594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1633 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Managua, 28 May (ACAN-EFE)—Managua's Radio Catolica executives reported today that unidentified persons stole station transmitter equipment and spares, "leaving it off the air" for an undetermined amount of time. The station is owned by the Managua Archbishopric.

The thieves "took several spares and an FM link used for normal broadcasts," the source added, after reporting that the theft took place at the transmitter site in the southeast outskirts of Managua.

The police have already been notified of the incident and have initiated the pertinent investigations, said one of "Catolica's" board members, but he did not disclose the value of the stolen equipment.

Radio Catolica is owned by the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, whose president is Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Panama

President-Elect Backs Constitutional Amendments

PA2805235194 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 May 94 p 1A

[Text] President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares has expressed his agreement with the bill on constitutional amendments that President Guillermo Endara presented this week to the plenum of the Legislative Assembly. Those amendments include proscribing the army and giving the Electoral Tribunal (TE) more financial and administrative autonomy.

Perez Balladares pointed out the need to give the National Police a legal reference point for regulating that profession and the institution through constitutional means and thus eliminate all vestiges of the former National Guard from the Constitution.

"Preserving the Panamanian state's right to defend itself, we agree with eliminating all references in the constitution to the National Guard, an institution we will not allow to be resurrected," Perez Balladares added.

In the same manner, he said that it should be understood that the elimination of the national army is linked to the elimination of any other foreign army from our soil, this in reference to the Southern Command.

Perez Balladares also agreed with the proposed amendments granting the TE more administrative and economic autonomy. He stressed this is the only way to guarantee to the people that the 1999 elections will be as free and honest as the 8 May 1994 elections.

Last Monday the Executive Branch, through Government Minister Jacobo Salas, presented two bills to the plenum of the Legislative Assembly on eliminating the Army from the Constitution and seeking autonomy for the TE to guarantee free, honest, and efficient elections.

Meanwhile, PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Legislator Gerardo Gonzalez disagreed with the approval of those amendments, saying they are part of a "package" of constitutional amendments rejected in the latest referendum.

Perez Balladares, who will take office on 1 September, said that his administration's relations with the United States will not be affected by the death of U.S. soldier Zak Hernandez, because no crime has been confirmed.

Perez Balladares added that the Panamanian judicial system will be the only entity charged with clarifying that incident, which occurred on 10 June 1992, and that he will accept the decisions resulting from the investigations, without any foreign pressures.

Gerardo Gonzalez also said that the PRD will not approve constitutional amendments on electoral matters that do not have the consensus of various political groups and much less if they endanger the existence of small parties.

Gonzalez, who is also president of the PRD, said his party agrees completely with reforms giving the TE more autonomy but rejects changes to Article 141 of the Constitution with regard to the Legislative Assembly's configuration.

According to the proposed amendments to Article 141, members of the Legislative Assembly would be elected only for specific circuits [circuitos uninominales], which would exclude a proportional representation system that favors small parties.

"That change to Article 141 has not been discussed by the political parties. This is something unexpected that will cause problems in this legislative period and in the Assembly to be installed on 1 September," he stressed.

Gonzalez recalled that in 1983 the PRD recommended that the 1984 elections be based on specific districts, but because of protests by representatives of small parties, the system of voting for a party slate [plurinomial] was instituted.

Views Canal Commission

PA3105041994 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
30 May 94 p 3

[By Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Panama's President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares has told the media that Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rosello promised him that his government will install soon in Panama a liaison office with the purpose to attract private investment to the isthmus.

Perez reported this at Marco A. Gelabert Airport on his return from the Antillean island where he spent five days as guest of Governor Rosello, who was a school-mate of his at a U.S. university.

During his stay in Puerto Rico, Perez also met with commercial and industrial groups of the island and spoke with them about the advantages Panama offers to foreign investors.

Perez said: "I hope we can dedicate that office soon and that it produces the effect we all expect."

The president elect also said that he spoke with Puerto Rican investors about the returned areas and the military installations that the U.S. southern Command will deliver to Panama in a few months.

In Perez Balladares' opinion, these installations can be used as complementary facilities and be turned into a door for the entrance and establishment of South American commerce in Panama.

Perez noted: "I think that we must reproduce the effort we are making in Puerto Rico in other countries of the world to establish in Panama marketing, export, and reexport centers that use the returned areas to create jobs we need, and at the same time take advantage of our geographic position."

Consulted about the reforms proposed by President Bill Clinton to restructure the Panama Canal Commission and about reforming the bank secrecy statutes to strengthen the antidrug struggle, Perez said he prefers to wait until his foreign minister-to-be gives him a well-founded report.

Perez said: "I would welcome, from any country, any joint effort initiative that, without hurting our interests, serves to check drug-trafficking and money-laundering." He noted that this is what his government will aim for and this is what President Clinton has referred to.

Regarding the Canal reforms, he said that Law 96-70 (the Murphy Law) requires modifications to permit the implementation of the final phase of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, "and I suppose that this is to what the reforms sent by President Clinton to the Senate refer."

Finally, Perez Balladares rejected speculation about Panama moving toward the category of a Free Associated State, like Puerto Rico, noting that Panamanians have chosen to remain as a free, independent, and sovereign republic, while Puerto Ricans decided to maintain their status. In this regard he said that he respects the idiosyncrasy and autonomy of all nations.

Minister Warns Against Renegotiating Treaties

PA2805220094 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
28 May 94 2A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose Mulino has said that it would be a serious mistake to renegotiate the presence of the United States in Panama after the year 2000 because the infrastructures now used in the Canal area must be put to work for the good of the country.

The Torrijos-Carter Treaties signed in 1977 state that the U.S. presence in Panama must end by 31 December 1999.

Mulino recalled that President Guillermo Endara's administration "has always said that there is no possibility of renegotiating the presence of U.S. bases in Panama after the year 2000." However, some groups in the country are suggesting the renegotiation of these treaties to avoid the negative impact that this withdrawal will have on the country's economy.

"As a Panamanian I have seen and studied in depth what the return of these infrastructures will represent for our country, socially as well as economically, and I believe it would be a mistake to suggest they remain here," Mulino said.

The Panamanian diplomat added that "we have to start working, as of yesterday, to efficiently and actively incorporate all those assets that the reverted areas represent to our national development."

Mulino said he believes Panama will benefit more from developing those areas in an organized way than by having them inhabited by foreign soldiers.

The areas along the banks of the Panama Canal are worth approximately \$30 billion, and, according to economists, they must be used to create jobs through foreign investment.

Mulino said that "as a citizen, this is the view that I must support."

However, Mulino added that it will be up to President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares and Foreign Minister-elect Gabriel Lewis Galindo to deal with this matter.

Mulino added that since this is a matter that is of interest to all, it must be handled as established in the Constitution.

Police Chief: U.S. Soldier Incident Not To Affect Ties

PA2705214094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2054 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Panama City, 27 May (ACAN-EFE)—Relations between Panama and the United States will not be affected by the incident yesterday in which a U.S. soldier was wounded by Panamanian police, who fired on the U.S. soldier's vehicle for allegedly driving with his lights off and not heeding a police order to stop, an official source said today.

National Police (PN) Director Oswaldo Fernandez declared that the incident in which U.S. Sergeant Maurice Neal was wounded in the shoulder by a Panamanian policeman does not have "any effect on U.S. relations." In this regard, Fernandez added U.S. Southern Command authorities and Panamanian PN exchanged reports on the case, adding it is "indeed true" Neal evaded and ran through a Panamanian police check-point.

Regarding whether the reaction of the police to fire on Neal is justified, Fernandez said that "it is too early to tell, because we must first verify the situation and hear the account of events from the PN Office of Professional Responsibility," which is investigating the case.

The Panama-based U.S. Southern Command maintains approximately 10,000 soldiers in installations along the length of the 80-km interoceanic Canal. U.S. troops must abandon these installations totally by 31 December 1999, as stipulated by the Canal Treaties signed by the two countries in 1977.

Minister: U.S. Banking Law Unnecessary

PA2705142494 Paris AFP in Spanish 2223 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Panama, 26 May (AFP)—The U.S. proposal concerning uniform legislation to eliminate banking secrecy in Latin America "does not favor Panama's interests" because the country has enough laws to investigate money laundering activities, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jose Mulino said today.

The United States issued the proposal during a meeting with representatives of the Andean Pact countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela), held on Tuesday and Wednesday in Bolivia to analyze the struggle against drug trafficking.

The U.S. Department of State representative, Paul Valky, said in Bolivia his country considers it essential to eliminate banking secrecy to fight against drug trafficking.

According to Mulino, "Panama is a sovereign country which can decide whether it accepts making its legislation uniform with that of the United States and other countries, but we have more than enough laws to fight drug trafficking activities without endangering banking confidentiality."

The powerful international banking center in Panama is considered by the U.S. authorities to be an important center for laundering money resulting from drug trafficking activities.

Mulino asserted: "It is not true that banks in Panama are impenetrable concerning legal issues or that banking confidentiality is an absolute regime." Banking confidentiality "is penetrable" upon request from the legal authorities, when legal processes are properly carried out, he added. Mulino said Panama has signed the

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to fight drug trafficking with the United States, Colombia, England, and the Central American countries.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Congress has yet to ratify the MLAT signed in 1992 with Panama, even though the Panamanian Legislative Assembly ratified the agreement, which allows authorities in different countries to exchange information about money laundering activities.

Free Zone To Heed UN Sanctions Against Haiti

PA2805220194 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE
PANAMA in Spanish 28 May 94 p A7

[Report by Esteban Huertas G.]

[Text] Galo Pinto, executive director of the Association of Colon Free Zone Users, said yesterday that the Colon Free Zone "will abide by the commercial sanctions ordered by the UN against Haiti." Pinto said that "this Free Zone respects the decisions made by the government" in regard to situations that affect the democratic development of any country, in this case Haiti.

Galo Pinto said that "users of the Free Zone are studying the effects the suspension of commercial exchange will have on that Caribbean nation."

Meanwhile, a reliable source who requested anonymity said that "Haitian businessmen are among the top clients of the Free Zone; they invest thousands of balboas to purchase products that are later reexported" to that French-speaking nation.

According to the spokesperson, "Haiti currently has one of the biggest markets in the Caribbean and ranks among the 10 biggest Free Zone purchasers."

For the second time, the Colon Free Zone, third-largest free zone in the world after Hong Kong and Singapore, will respect the UN decision against Haiti. The UN sanctions on Haiti are aimed at restoring democracy in that country and ensure the return to the country of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The Association of Colon Free Zone Users is currently studying the dispositions being implemented by other Latin American governments against Haiti.

Argentina**Lawmakers Criticize U.S. Ambassador Cheek**

PY2705223194 Buenos Aires *BUENOS AIRES HERALD* in English 27 May 94 p 3

[Text] (DYN)—The President of the Radical Party bloc of deputies Raul Galvan yesterday [26 May] lashed out at U.S. Ambassador James Cheek "for his statements and pressure to get the pharmaceutical patents bill dealt with."

Galvan joins a queue of disgruntled legislators who in recent days have aired similar opinions.

The Cilfa [Argentine Industrial Center of Pharmaceutical Laboratories] national pharmaceutical chamber also joined in the fray over the transition period allowed under the GATT Treaty and accused Cheek of "avoiding the extensive debate required" for this controversial issue.

"It is obvious that Ambassador Cheek has decided to have a say in domestic policy decisions, encouraged no doubt by the government's complacent attitude to previous incursions of this nature," Galvan said.

Meanwhile the Senator Jose Genoud who presides over the Industry Commission in the Upper House, which is currently debating the bill, also had something to say on Cheek's attitude, commenting that "the U.S. is now scaremongering."

Deputy Alberto Natale (DP [expansion unknown]) even went as far as tabling a motion to get Cheek declared persona non grata.

Cilfa Executive Director Pablo Challu also said that he was "surprised that the press release issued by the U.S. embassy has discovered a new classification system whereby Argentina is now intermediately developed," a classification which would deny Argentina the ten-year transition period stipulated in the GATT Treaty.

"This classification is nonexistent for GATT which classifies countries as underdeveloped, developing and developed, while the ten-year transition period is applicable to the first two categories, Argentina clearly belonging to the second one," Challu said.

He also criticized the statement in the press release which said that Argentina was not entitled to the ten-year transition period because it already had a patent system for manufacturing processes.

Challu said it was not true as the ten-year proviso is applicable to those countries that don't have a product patenting system and therefore Argentina is fully covered by the GATT Treaty.

Russia's Shumeyko on Black Sea Fleet Dispute

PY2705222194 Buenos Aires *CLARIN* in Spanish 26 May 94 p 32

[Article by Telma Luzzani]

[Text] Bluntly saying "Russia does not want the Black Sea fleet to be split," Russian Federation Council President Vladimir Shumeyko summarized the Russian stance on its current dispute with Ukraine, the most serious between the two nuclear powers after the dissolution of the former Soviet Union.

Visiting Argentina within the framework of a Latin American tour that also includes Chile, Brazil, Venezuela, and Ecuador, Shumeyko ruled out the possibility of any armed confrontation between Russia and Ukraine despite last week's crisis in Crimea.

Asked during a news conference in Buenos Aires about the Kremlin's possible reaction to an armed effort by Kiev to quench Crimea's efforts to achieve independence, Shumeyko responded: "I do not believe Ukraine will use force."

[CLARIN] Why?

[Shumeyko] Because it is impossible.

It is simply impossible, the senator emphasized. He made it clear he is making this tour as a representative of the Russian state and not as a representative of the Senate alone.

[CLARIN] Should Crimea be Russian?

[Shumeyko] Neither Russian nor Ukrainian. I believe it is necessary to focus on the basics of the problem. Nowadays, Russia is economically better off than Ukraine. For Crimea to become Russian territory is tantamount to becoming subordinate to a stronger currency, earning higher wages, and enjoying other benefits. We respect Ukraine's sovereignty and the Ukrainian people's desire to organize their own lives. Nowadays, Russian support for Crimean authorities is economic. The rest depends on Ukraine's stance.

[CLARIN] The true issue under discussion involves the Sebastopol base and the Black Sea fleet, but the negotiations on splitting are bogged down. What is likely to happen?

[Shumeyko] Russia does not want the fleet to be split. The politicians now are playing this card, but they are aware of the fact that the problem does not involve the fleet's command but its existence. Neither Russia nor Ukraine is able to separately maintain such a powerful fleet.

[CLARIN] Concerning Russian domestic politics, the unending disputes between groups struggling for and against the reforms frequently jeopardize Russia's frail democratic stability. What is the current situation?

[Shumeyko] I would say now there are no sharp disputes at the domestic political level. I believe rather that both the conservatives and the reformists have changed to such an extent that now it is difficult to clearly distinguish who is who. For example, the communists accept private property and religion. In today's Russia, we might say there is not a single true communist, but there is not a single true democrat either. Except for the extremists, everyone agrees that the reforms must be carried out.

[CLARIN] And Zhirinovskiy?

[Shumeyko] Zhirinovskiy too. Of course, with his own interpretation. We require stability in order to implement the reforms. Therefore, President Boris Yeltsin proposed signing a national consensus agreement to strengthen the Russian state.

Press Report on Border Dispute With Chile Denied

PY2705222394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0018 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (NA)—In connection with a Chilean map that shows serious irregularities which was published by a Buenos Aires morning newspaper, the Foreign Ministry stated today that "there is no border conflict between Argentina and Chile."

According to Argentine officials, the map was published in black and white "without showing the colored areas and without the explanatory notes of the original, thus making a serious mistake in its interpretation."

In a communique, the Foreign Ministry assures that the map published with the report was taken "from a chart in the 'Atlas of Chilean History,' by Osvaldo Silva, published by Editorial Universitaria in 1992."

The communique says: "The original clearly shows areas on the map as Argentine territory assigned to Chile. These are the territories that were 'stripped' from Chile as of 1563 until the end of the 19th century when new viceregal jurisdictions and border treaties were implemented."

It makes clear: "The original map entails no claim by Chile to any current Argentine territory."

The Foreign Ministry emphasizes that "there is no border dispute" between the two countries, and that of the 24 pending border issues that remained unresolved until 1991, "22 were settled through a bilateral agreement that was signed that year."

The two remaining issues, Laguna del Desierto and the continental glacier zone, are being considered by the two Congresses.

Di Tella on Citizens Held 'Hostage' in Bolivia

PY3005181594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0058 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 May (NA)—The Foreign Ministry reported today that two Argentine citizens are being held "hostage" in the Techint Company offices in the Bolivian town of Camiri which has been blocked as part of a civic strike over salary hike demands.

The Argentine citizens are engineers Jose Gasparoni and Juan Quevedo. The Argentine Foreign Ministry is conducting intense negotiations with the Bolivian Government over Gasparoni and Quevedo.

In this regard, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella called his Bolivian counterpart to personally inquire about the situation of these two citizens while the Foreign Ministry has called the Techint Company in our country and is calling the engineers' relatives.

Tierra Del Fuego Governor Denies 'Social Explosion'

PY2705205494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1358 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpts] Ushuaia, 27 May (NA)—Tierra del Fuego Governor Jose Estabillo (MOPOF) [Tierra del Fuego Popular Movement] emphasized today that "there is no chance of a social explosion" in the province. He said the conflict that provoked the mobilization of hundreds of metalworkers will be resolved before 30 May.

Estabillo said: "We do not have 1,700 people thrown into the streets as some newspapers said." The governor recognized, however, that "there is a problem, but it is limited to two or three companies."

He said: "Workers and managers are discussing the situation. The government is mediating, doing its best to find a solution."

The governor added that the metalworkers "did not respect the order of compulsory conciliation decreed by the Labor Ministry," after the Ushuaia Branch of the UOM [Metalworkers Union] decided to stage an indefinite strike. [passage omitted]

Estabillo recognized: "The climate in the province is tense" because the factory sector is very important—it employs nearly 5,500 people, adding that "other supporters gradually joined the demonstration."

Regarding the case of workers who took over a factory, Estabillo said: "This incident involved the Crown company following the dismissal of 15 workers." The governor urged workers to respect a court ruling.

Estabillo said that despite the important increase in production of color television sets—from 300,000 sets in 1990 to 1,600,000 last year—there is a crisis in the industry due to "commercial factors and the increased demand during the run up to the world soccer competition, which is not up to entrepreneurs' expectations."

Estabillo said: "Entrepreneurs have complained about the policy permitting the unrestricted import of electronic products, which is producing strong competition for national industries in Tierra del Fuego."

The governor added: "Industrial retooling takes time and effort," stressing "the political willingness of the economy minister to change the tax burden on Tierra del Fuego entrepreneurs."

The governor denied asking the Border Police to intervene, assuring that "the situation is being controlled by the provincial police."

Police, Strikers Clash; Interior Minister Comments

PY3005174094 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 29 May 94 pp 1,4

[Text] Ushuaia (DYN-NA)—At least nine people were seriously injured yesterday and scores arrested after police clashed violently with groups of workers at the local Crown Mustang electronics factory, where workers have been on strike for 12 days in protest against a series of labour disputes.

The trouble was sparked off in the early hours of yesterday morning when police moved in to the electronics factory and tried to evict them and a number of reporters by force.

Among those seriously injured were at least five workers from the firm and four reporters. As many as 20 other workers were said to have received minor injuries.

Although police denied there had been any arrests, reporters said there had been several and that other people had been forced to hand over identity documents.

Witnesses told reporters that police had been firing guns amid the rioting and hitting workers with truncheons as the trouble flared.

Workers had occupied the offices of the Crown Mustang building for nearly two weeks in protest against low salaries and redundancies. Fifteen workers at the firm and a further 120 at Continental Fueguina were laid off last week.

UOM metal workers union representative Oscar Martinez said the repression had been "absolutely terrible" and that police had "chased workers along the streets for at least ten blocks.

"One man had his head split open by a stick smashed over his head by police," Martinez said. "Another was shot in the arm while another was kicked while on the ground."

A statement, issued by Tierra del Fuego Government Minister Fulvio Baseda, said that the violent eviction order had been ordered by Judge Fernando Machado after workers had refused to stop their strike late Friday evening.

Moments later in direct contradiction to the statement, Tierra del Fuego Governor Jose Strabillo, who had said Friday that the strikes would not lead to violence, said that the police action had been wholly justified: "They (the police) were merely carrying out their legal orders."

"On arrival (at the factory) they were hit by stones and home-made bombs that were being thrown out of the windows of the factory by the workers," the governor said.

Yet Strabillo's deputy, Miguel Angel Castro, told reporters later in the evening that there would be an immediate independent investigation in order to determine whether the police had in any way abused their authority.

He also said police had been ordered to move in given that the workers had "illegally invaded what constitutes private property."

As a result of the clashes, which workers said had been on the cards ever since the government ordered a detachment of Border Guards to the province last week supposedly to curb any hints of violence, there will be a general strike tomorrow as a further mark of protest.

Union leaders also refused to rule out further collective action in the latter parts of next week.

Local reporters said the police had also cordoned off the local FM Fuego radio station and fired rifle shots at its offices, forcing the station to close down for some three hours.

Hours after the turmoil, witnesses said there was still tension between the public and police as a series of marches were being held through the streets with approximately 800 people participating.

The decision to strike was voted for unanimously by members of the local branches of the UOM metal workers union, the ATSA health workers union as well as members of the restaurant and oil workers union.

Employees at local-based companies have been demanding wage hikes for two years in order to compensate for living in one of the most expensive provinces in the country.

Labour Minister Armando Caro Figueroa and Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf were originally due to visit the province tomorrow in an attempt to pacify workers and bring the situation back to normal. There was no immediate statement as to whether the plans would still be enforced.

Meanwhile Ruckauf said last night that the government was not planning to revert to intervention in an attempt to bring order to the troubled zone.

"It's not even a remote possibility," the minister said. "It would only be considered if the local government pleaded for such a step or if the police forces were out of their depth."

He added that although the government and security services would continue to monitor the developments in the province closely, they would respect the workers' right to strike.

Ruckauf emphasized that the Border Guards stationed nearby were on alert and that the government would not hesitate to dispatch them to the scene of the disturbances if the situation gets out of hand over the next few days.

Menem Views Reelection of Governors, Health

PY3005164894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1147 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 May (NA)—President Carlos Menem implicitly supported the implementation of a clause making it possible for governors to be reelected when he said that the provincial constitutions "should be entirely in accordance" with the terms of the national Constitution.

The president's words are a renewed support to the plans of certain governors, Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde among them, who hope the Constituent Assembly approves a clause enabling them to become gubernatorial candidates in 1995, even if their districts prevent them from being reelected.

In remarks made to "La 9.90" radio station on the night of 26 May, Menem again denied rumors that he was seriously ill. He called for "an end to this irresponsible behavior, because spreading this sort of rumor shows no love for the country or its people." [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Olivos Pact, he rejected the idea of a "package." He pointed out that "it is a law, part of which has been agreed upon," and declined "to make further comments because now it is the Constituent Assembly members' turn to talk about it."

He also expressed support for a possible reelection of governors because "four provinces have the possibility of reelecting their governors and this unequal treatment of the issue is repugnant to the national Constitution."

He emphasized: "There are no grounds, no reasons to oppose the governors' reelection. We cannot forget that if we look at the issue from the philosophical point of view, the provincial constitutions must be entirely in accordance with the terms of the national Constitution."

Menem believes the reelection issue is not a matter of form but of essence because "it grants all citizens an equal right to be elected and reelected."

Asked whether Duhalde could run for the vice presidency if prevented from being reelected governor, Menem answered "of course he can." He added that it

was "a lie" that Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo might become "jealous" because of that.

He pointed out: "Cavallo is now less interested in entering the political area because he is doing very well in the economic area. He is a vigorous, somewhat passionate, man."

He added: "The important thing is that in the economic field things are well." He confirmed that "there is no possibility of modifying or violating the economic model that we have implemented."

Regarding disagreement created over the Secretariat for Community Protection, Menem regretted the fact that "some have exaggerated what has happened." He emphasized, however, that "the issue has been discussed and the river waters have returned to their course. The river is flowing slowly but uninterruptedly and no one is mentioning the topic now."

"I do not know where the rumors come from, but all I can tell these people is 'those whom you have killed are in good health.' I have never felt better nor as full of enthusiasm for doing things for my country as now," Menem said denying rumors about health problems.

UCR's Alfonsín Views Constituent Assembly's Aims

PY2705223094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1543 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 May (NA)—Raul Alfonsín, president of the Radical [Civic Radical Union] bloc of Constituent Assembly members, reiterated that his party "definitely" does not want the assembly to include a clause that will allow governors to run for reelection, and he reiterated that "ballotage is a Radical project that comes from 1988 and has been accepted by Carlos Menem."

Regarding the reelection of governors, he said: "The Constituent Assembly can in no way dedicate itself to this type of topic, and as of now we are not accepting any type of clause on this matter."

"This is the responsibility of provincial constitutions, and it cannot be discussed or debated in a constitutional reform, and we are maintaining this position," he added.

He also gave an advance warning about his "flat" refusal to the possibility of the existence a Lemas Law in Buenos Aires Province.

"In truth," he said, "the province's constitution makes its implementation very difficult, and there is no way in which the official sector can structure it."

Asked about the changes that occurred during the past 20 years that could justify a new constitution, Alfonsín said that "there have been various events," and he highlighted "the role of the Armed Forces, which today is blended with the institutions."

He also maintained that after 10 years of exercising democracy "it is evident that it is not a good thing for the president to name judges," and therefore with the constitutional reform "this activity will be carried out by the Magistrates Council in order to serve the Republic's interests in a much better way."

UCR, Grand Front To Reject Re-Election of Governors

PY3105132594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1826 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe, 30 May (NA)—Raul Alfonsin, leader of the Radical [Radical Civic Union—UCR] bloc, and Carlos Chacho Alvarez, head of the Grand Front bloc, have agreed that the political forces they head will reject any government project to include a clause that allows the re-election of governors in the new constitution.

Alfonsin and Alvarez met at the seat of the Litoral University, where the Constituent Assembly will formally begin its sessions at 1700.

Defense Ministry Continues To Privatize Assets

PY3105031394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1639 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 May (NA)—The Defense Ministry's most immediate projects are the privatization of the San Francisco and Rio Tercero Military Factories and the Domingo Matheu Portable Weapons Factory; the liquidation of the company Tecnologia Aeroespacial; and the franchising of airport auxiliary services.

The ministry headed by Oscar Camilion already has the feasibility study for the privatization of the company Aerea Material Cordoba, linked to airplane construction, which was produced by the Netherlands consulting firm ING Bank.

Also approved are the documents for the bidding and privatization of the San Francisco Military Factory in Cordoba Province.

The options for implementing this operation are two: selling the assets; or renting the installations for 10 years with a purchase option that includes the transfer of personnel.

According to the Economy Ministry's last report on privatizations, the Defense Ministry is analyzing the possibility of bidding the chemistry and metallurgical areas of the Rio Tercero Military Factory, and has already requested an evaluation of the installations' worth.

The privatization of the Domingo Matheu Portable Weapons Factory, through the sale of 75 percent of company shares, is ready. The factory has been transformed into a new shareholding company in order to implement the operation.

The proposal provides for the sale of another 20 percent of company shares in a second stage. Four percent of the shares will be used for the participating property program, and 1 percent will remain in the hands of the state.

The Defense Ministry is also planning to liquidate the company Tecnologia Aeroespacial S.A., which is 99.96 percent state owned, as well as Sidinox, a company that is 50 percent owned by Acerinter S.A.

The ministry is also thinking of privatizing the Center for Mining and Geological Exploration and the Minister Manuel Garcia Shipyard.

The Defense Ministry has also proposed franchising the exploitation of the different units of the "Fanazul" Black Powder and Explosives Military Factory. Pending are measures for implementing the privatization of the companies Sisteval S.A., the Fray Luis Beltran Military Factory, the Villa Maria Explosives and Black Powder Military Factory, and Satecna S.A.

Finally, still pending is the project to deregulate airport auxiliary services—customs clearing houses, ramp services, duty free shops—in order to privatize them.

Bolivia

President Proposes New Constitutional Court

PY2705144894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT
27 May 94

[Text] Sucre, Bolivia, 26 May (EFE)—Bolivian President Sanchez de Lozada announced today his intention of establishing a Constitutional Court to restructure the judiciary.

After meeting with Supreme Court members in Sucre, the country's administrative capital, Sanchez de Lozada announced that he will promote the establishment of a Constitutional Court during the extraordinary congressional sessions that started last week, and during which the constitution will be amended.

After meeting with Sanchez de Lozada, acting Chief Justice Gualberto Davalos expressed the Supreme Court's opposition to the establishment of a Constitutional Court.

Davalos explained that the Bolivian Supreme Court has and will always oppose the establishment of a Constitutional Court, because it believes it would undermine the Supreme Court's powers and the autonomy of the judiciary.

Sanchez de Lozada expressed his determination to propose the establishment of a Constitutional Court in the constitutional amendments, and cited several European and Latin American countries that have one.

The Bolivian Supreme Court has been virtually paralyzed since last year in view of impeachment proceedings

undertaken against its president, Edgar Oblitas, who has been charged with extortion.

President Denies Cutting Armed Forces Resources

PY2705210094 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] The issue of the reduction of Armed Forces human and financial resources continues in the news. In a speech, President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada has denied it.

[Begin Sanchez de Lozada recording] I want to tell you that there never were, and never will be any plans of the sort reported in an opposition newspaper article—which, unfortunately, acquired some notoriety—because this institution safeguards all Bolivians, our sovereignty, our democracy, and our development.

We undoubtedly need to adopt many measures to improve the institution. That is only natural. These measures seek to make the Armed Forces a stronger institution, allowing them to better fulfill their institutional duties and to better represent and defend our fatherland. [end recording]

Military Concerned About Reductions

PY3005193894 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 May 94

[Excerpts] The situation in the Armed Forces has been tense in the last few days as a result of the personnel reduction in the Armed Forces. Defense Minister Raul Tovar said that the comments made by General Moises Schiriqui Bejarano, Armed Forces chief of staff, were distorted.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Mario Espinoza] This report does not seek to increase a disagreement between the Armed Forces and the constitutionally established civilian government. The idea is to reflect what is happening between the Armed Forces and the executive branch. Today President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada arrived 40 minutes late to a ceremony prepared by his escort battalion. Furthermore, the issue of the reduction of personnel and economic resources in the Armed Forces has created concern not only because of the reaction of the Armed Forces chief of staff, as reported by an editorial in LA RAZON, but also because of how it was done, as if it were an answer to an offense against the Armed Forces which in reality never existed. This is why the comments of the defense minister also created concern when he said that the declarations of General Moises Schiriqui Bejarano have been distorted.

[Tovar] His comments were distorted.

[Espinoza] Does this mean that there are no disagreements between the Armed Forces and the civilian power?

[Tovar] No, there are no disagreements, absolutely none. There is complete respect for democracy.

[Espinoza] As far as we know, General Schiriqui never questioned the government's policy, in this case democracy. What is indeed under discussion is the possibility of a reduction of personnel and economic resources in the Armed Forces within the framework of the economic crisis affecting the country for the last few years. [passage omitted] [end recording]

After President Sanchez de Lozada delivered his speech the impasse with the Armed Forces was overcome. President Sanchez de Lozada was very clear in the speech he made during the ceremony on the anniversary of the Colorados Regiment.

[Begin recording] [Espinoza] President Sanchez de Lozada, with the Constitution in his hands, reminded the Armed Forces of their constitutional role of guaranteeing the stability of the legally established government and of cooperating in the overall development of the country.

[Sanchez de Lozada] The Armed Forces have the basic role of defending and maintaining national independence [words indistinct], and the honor and national sovereignty, insuring the reign of the Constitution, guaranteeing the stability of the legally established government, and cooperating in the overall development of the country. This is the government policy, this is the government guideline [words indistinct].

[Espinoza] President Sanchez de Lozada said there is not, nor will there be, any policy that does not benefit the nation and this includes the Armed Forces because when a country grows, its Armed Forces also grow.

[Sanchez de Lozada in progress] a stronger institution, better prepared to fulfill its constitutional duties, and to represent, and defend our country. [words indistinct]

[Espinoza] The president believes there are no poor countries with great Armed Forces and that the current effort is to strengthen the national economy and society, to educate the people, to watch over their health, and also to appropriate resources to have a strong Armed Forces. In the afternoon, the president summoned the high military command to explain the government policy regarding the Armed Forces. Then Armed Forces Commander General Fernando Sanjinez referred to the presidential speech.

[Sanjinez] We are very pleased with the speech delivered by the president this morning. We are really very pleased with his speech.

[Espinoza] Apparently the situation is now clearer. There was undoubtedly a moment of confrontation but following the meeting the situation is completely normal. [end recording]

Plans To Militarize Drug Battle Denied

PY2705142894 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish
1100 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] In referring to bank secrecy and the tapping of telephone conversations, President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada stated in Sucre:

Nobody is thinking about lifting bank secrecy. There is no plan to this end, and still less to (?violate) the specific rights of Bolivian people living in democracy. An authorization issued by a prosecutor or a judge is necessary to do this.

Speaking about the militarization of the Chapare zone, the president said:

There is no intention of militarizing the struggle against drug trafficking. I was never in favor of that when I was a member of the opposition, and still less so now that I am in government.

Brazil

Franco Invites Aristide for Official Visit

PY2805012094 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 May 94

[Report by Claudia Moreira in Brasilia]

[Text] President Itamar Franco invited Haitian President-in-exile Jean Bertrand Aristides for an official visit to Brazil during the OAS General Assembly. The idea is to hold parallel meetings to be attended by foreign ministers in the American continent, who will discuss the situation in Haiti after the coup d'etat.

Minister Signs Tlatelolco Treaty in Mexico

PY3105012194 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Brazil today signed the Tlatelolco Treaty, whereby our country commits itself to refraining from manufacturing nuclear bombs or weapons. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim participated in the signing ceremony in Mexico.

Talks Begin To Intensify Relations With Russia

PY2805010794 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 May 94

[Report by Luiz Augusto Mendonca]

[Text] Brazil and Russia have begun talks seeking to intensify bilateral trade relations.

During his meeting with President Itamar Franco at Planalto Palace today, Russian Congress President Vladimir Shumeiko defended the need to intensify

cooperation and trade between the two countries, particularly with regard to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

According to reports by the press adviser for the Russian delegation currently visiting Brazil, (Yuriy Alkanov), President Franco's meeting with Shumeiko is not a simple courtesy visit but the beginning of a new stage in the two countries' trade relations. He pointed out that Shumeiko was authorized by President Boris Yeltsin to discuss state matters with the Brazilian president.

Senator Expects July Date for Patents Law Vote

PY3105010094 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 May 94

[Report by Bette Veloso from the federal Congress in Brasilia]

[Text] Senator Joao Rocha [Liberal Front Party-Tocantins], chairman of the Senate Economic Affairs Committee, has announced that the committee will next week resume its debate on the draft patents law.

Rocha said he awaits only the final report of Senator Jose Richa [Brazilian Social Democracy Party-Parana State], who is the rapporteur of the proposal, to open the debate. The draft patents law is designed to protect patents rights against acts of piracy. The United States has gone so far as to demand the approval of the law in order to continue to maintain trade relations with Brazil.

The Brazilian Government had promised to have the law approved by the middle of this month. Senator Rocha noted, however, that this deadline is unfeasible. He noted that the committee is not hurrying because it wants to pass a law that will be in the best interests of the country.

Rocha believes that the draft industrial property law will be voted on only during the extension of the congressional recess in July—if there is one—or during the second half of this year during the electoral campaign.

The rapporteur has already announced that the proposal will be amended in order to have its provisions conform with the decisions included in the GATT accord, and it will have to go back to the Chamber of Deputies after the Senate vote.

Minister Says Government Drafting Antidumping Law

PY3005205794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2325 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Brasilia, 29 May (AE)—Today during the opening session of the Second Southern Cone Marketing Congress, Industry and Commerce Minister Aecio Alvares reported that the government is studying a draft antidumping bill. He said that the government is worried about the problem as customs barriers are being eliminated over the entire world, and dumping and subsidies

are becoming frequent practices in international trade. "In these cases we need to react immediately, or face the disappearance of some industries," he said.

Alvares mentioned the case of the textile industry, which faces competition from Korean products arriving in Brazil with prices 50 percent below domestic prices. "We cannot stop encouraging trade at lower prices," he said, but "we also cannot allow subsidies or dumping practices," he added. According to the minister, Mercosur [Common Market of the South] is particularly important in combating these two unfair trade practices that hurt the free market, as the regional trade bloc strengthens the position of Brazil in international forums such as GATT.

The minister also said that the participation of private initiative in the detection of harmful practices in trade is essential. Alvares said that Mercosur is already a real market. Businessmen from the four member countries—Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay—are already identifying potential joint actions and solutions to common problems. He mentioned the initiative of the shoe industry businessmen of Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul, who are contacting their Argentine and Uruguayan counterparts to defend themselves from the trade actions of Chinese shoe producers in the international market.

The Second Southern Cone Marketing Congress began today with an attendance of 2,500—1,000 more than what was expected by the Parana Marketing and Sales Managers Association (ADVB), which is organizing the congress. The congress will last until 31 May, and among its highlights will be presentations by Alvin Toffler, one of the greatest international marketing specialists, and by Serge Ogranovitch, a Frenchman resident in the United States who is a key player in projects for forming economic blocs. Ogranovitch has counseled Japan and its partners in the consolidation of the Asian trade bloc.

Lucena Notes Constitutional Amendment Vote Deadline

PY2805014594 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 May 94

[Report by Beth Veloso from Congress]

[Text] The party leaders' deadline to decide about calling for new constitutional reforms is 31 May. This warning was made by Constituent Congress President Senator Humberto Lucena.

According to Lucena, even if the constitutional reform work continues for eight or 10 more days, the amendment that contemplates reviewing the Constitution every 10 years will have to be voted on in the first round of voting on 31 May:

[Begin Lucena recording] The deadline can be extended only enough to allow Constituent Congress members to complete the voting process in two rounds. [end recording]

Lucena also warned that he will only propose voting on the amendment if there is a consensus among party leaders. So far this consensus has not been ensured: The PT [Workers Party] and the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] do not support the amendment because it allows changes in the federal system and regarding independence among the three government branches.

Military Club President To Protest Low Salaries

PY2705145794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1923 GMT 26 May 94

[Report by Chico Otavio]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 26 May (AE)—Brigade General Joao Consenza, 60, was elected president of the Military Club on 25 May. He is willing to resort even to the courts to protest the loss of purchasing power in the salaries of Armed Forces members. Consenza, who was the candidate for Renewing Action [Acao Renovadora], defeated General Jose Oscar Bellas Galvao in receiving 66 percent of the overall votes.

Consenza's victory represented the choice of 4,500 officers who voted for a Military Club that can participate actively in political matters. The new president said that one of his program priorities is "to promote and stimulate civic and patriotic demonstrations as well as studies and debates on national matters of paramount importance."

The general promised to do his best to obtain better salaries for the Armed Forces. According to him, the salaries of the military are "horrible." In the program, Renewing Action commits itself to defending the interests of Military Club members and "to fighting for measures that ensure their rights, be it in the courts or outside of them." Consenza asserted, however, that he is not planning to clash with the military ministers.

One of the first steps the new president will take will be to study the details of the lawsuit filed by the current club administration to protest to the federal government the loss in salaries' purchasing power that has resulted from the economic plan. The general confessed: "I know none of the details of this lawsuit." The lawsuit was prepared by Jurist Saulo Ramos, who charged the club millions for his work.

Joao Consenza will be installed on 26 June to replace General Nilton Cerqueira, who leaves the presidency of the Club after four years to run for federal deputy. According to the new president, the Military Club will not officially support any military candidate. "Personally, however, I support these candidacies, and will vote for General Newton Cruz for Rio de Janeiro governor," he admitted.

URV Law Enacted, Published in Official Gazette

PY3005180794 *Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1315 GMT 30 May 94*

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 30 May (AE)—The Provisional Measure in the Economic Stabilization Program that creates the URV [real value unit] has become Law No. 8880. The measure, which was approved by congress, was sanctioned by President Itamar Franco on 27 May with two vetoes and it was published in the official gazette on 28 May. [passage omitted]

The two vetoes by President Franco to Provisional Measure 482 affect the parity between agricultural products prices (Paragraph 2, Article 16) and labor relations (Article 41). Paragraph 2, Article 16, established that "monetary correction" of rural financial, marketing, or investment credit operations regardless of their source, "must be equivalent to the minimum prices in force for agricultural products." This amendment was part of the agreement reached between the congressional ruralist bloc and the government to approve the provisional measure.

PDT Names Darcy Ribeiro as Brizola Running Mate

PY2805005994 *Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 27 May 94*

[Text] PDT [Democratic Labor Party] presidential candidate Leonel Brizola today met PDT national executive committee members at his residence in southern Rio de Janeiro.

This afternoon the PDT announced that Senator Darcy Ribeiro will be Brizola's running mate on the PDT ticket.

Policeman Included on Numbers Game List Killed

PY2805033894 *Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 May 94 p 1*

[Text] Military Police [PM] Major Ronaldo Silva of the 9th BPM [Military Police Battalion] (Rocha Miranda District), whose name had been included on the list of bribes paid by numbers game kingpin Castor de Andrade, was killed the morning of 24 May. He was murdered by more than 15 machine-gun bullets in Colegio District, in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. The PM major was in his car and was attacked when he stopped at a traffic light.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Paulo Cunha, commander of the 9th BPM, the major had found a witness who could prove he was not guilty of the charges being pressed against him and also had discovered that his name had been unduly included on the list.

The courts on 24 May ordered that six of the eight numbers game kingpins serving their sentences in the Vieira Ferreira Neto Institute Penitentiary be transferred to another jail. The decision resulted from irregularities that had occurred at the institute, where the

criminals continued to control the irregular game via the phone. The six criminals will be sent to three different penitentiaries.

Chile**Radical, Social Democratic Parties Merge**

PY3005183894 *Madrid EFE in Spanish 2313 GMT 29 May 94*

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (EFE)—The Chilean Social Democratic Party's general council today approved the party merge with the Radical Party to form what will be called the Social Democratic Radical Party [Partido Radical Social Democrata—PRSD].

The Radicals yesterday ratified a declaration to this same effect.

The next step is the official registration of this new party with the Electoral Service. The statutes were drafted by a mixed commission.

The decision to merge the two parties was made due to the fact that they are both centrist parties and that the two member parties of the governing Coalition of Parties for Democracy obtained very few votes during the December 1993 presidential elections.

It was announced that Radical Senator Anselmo Sule will be president of the PRSD and Ernesto Velasco, also a Radical, secretary general, while Social Democrats will occupy the vice presidencies.

Senator Sule today said that the merging of the two parties is "a historical event" and will mark "a new phase" of the social democratic currents.

Drug Trafficker Escapes After Bribing Guards

PY3005203594 *Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 28 May 94*

[Text] Santiago, 27 May (EFE)—The police revealed today that the most important Chilean drug trafficker, Selim Valenzuela Galdames, who got away a few days ago while being taken from prison to a hospital for a medical checkup, bribed the prison guards who were guarding him to let him escape.

Prison guard Alex Valdebenito Carrasco, one of the four guards in charge of guarding Valenzuela while he was being taken to the hospital, confessed to having received the equivalent of \$4,700 to let him go.

Prison Police Director Claudio Martinez disclosed during a news conference today that the four guards involved had been dismissed, and are now at the disposal of the courts in Valparaiso, the main Chilean port, where the drug trafficker escaped.

Selim Valenzuela is regarded as the mastermind behind a shipment to Sweden of 40 kg of cocaine, which was found by the Swedish police in the port of Goteborg.

The drugs had been packed in 1,750 boxes of raisins, but were detected by Goteborg customs authorities.

Two of the individuals involved in the case, the Chileans Jorge Chadwick Vergara and Rene Ramirez Barrientos, who reside in Sweden, were sentenced by the Swedish courts to 10 and nine years' imprisonment respectively.

Jose Miguel Vallejos, spokesman for the Chilean Investigative Police Antinarcotics Directorate, told the local media that Valenzuela's escape is "serious," and noted that "he is very valuable to the Investigative Police because he is considered one of the most important Chilean traffickers due to his international links."

Colombia

Preliminary Returns Show Samper With Slight Lead

PA2905230794 Paris AFP in Spanish 2237 GMT
29 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 29 May (AFP)—After counting 8 percent of the voting tables, the first, preliminary, official returns of the Colombian presidential elections held today show Liberal presidential candidate Ernesto Samper as having a slight lead over his Conservative opponent Andres Pastrana.

After tallying 3,916 polling tables of the 47,000 throughout the country, Samper garnered 201,530 votes (47 percent) while Pastrana obtained 183,846 (42.8 percent).

Caracol Exit Polls Show Samper Winning

PA3005002094 Paris AFP in Spanish 2337 GMT
29 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota 29 May (AFP)—According to exit polls conducted by the Caracol Radio Network with 57,800 voters after they had cast their votes, liberal candidate Ernesto Samper will win this Sunday's election. Samper will receive 47.3 percent and his opponent, conservative Andres Pastrana, 44.3 percent of the vote.

Those polled were also asked about their favorite candidate for an eventual run-off election, which would be held on 19 June. While Samper is also seen to lead this election with 50.4 percent of the intended votes, 47.5 percent favor Pastrana and 2.1 percent are undecided.

Caracol was unable to report the results of this poll because of the Colombian Government's restrictions on releasing election-related information.

Samper, Pastrana in 'Virtual Tie'

PA3005034394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT
30 May 94

[By Elias Garcia]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 29 May (EFE)—Colombians will have to go to runoff presidential elections on 19 June, since none of the 18 candidates secured a simple majority today's primary elections.

Contrary to poll estimates, both candidates finished in a virtual tie: liberal candidate Ernesto Samper, the favorite, garnered 45.2 percent of the votes, while conservative candidate Andres Pastrana obtained 44.9 percent. Former guerrilla Antonio Navarro Wolff of the "Commitment for Colombia" was third with 3.8 percent of the votes, followed by Regina Betancourt of the Metapolitical Unitary Movement obtained 1.1 percent.

Blank votes accounted for 1.1 percent of the votes cast. Once again, abstentionism was one of the predominant notes of the day: less than 6 million people of a total of 17.1 million potential voters went to the polls, representing approximately 70 percent abstentionism.

The narrow margin between the two principal contenders was a surprise because the majority of the polls put Samper 5 percent over Pastrana.

The elections took place amid calm, as occurred throughout the campaign in which there were no major incidents of violence. Colombians still recall with horror the previous presidential campaign in which three candidates were assassinated.

Beginning tomorrow, the candidates will no doubt begin the second stage of their election campaign. Their aim will be to garner the small percentage of votes (approximately 7 percent) that went to the other candidates today. The two candidates who will go to the runoff elections will seek to obtain the support of some of the 15 candidates who were eliminated by verdict of the polls, above all, Antonio Navarro, Regina Betancourt, Miguel Maza, and Enrique Parejo, who altogether obtained almost 6.5 percent of the votes, some 400,000.

Of course it remains to be seen whether the votes of these candidates are "transferable" or, if on the contrary, their supporters do not respond to any persuasion.

It will be especially important to see what stand Antonio Navarro adopts. Some of his supporters in the Democratic Alliance (former M-19 guerrilla group) abandoned him in the middle of the campaign because they did not agree on going to the elections under another acronym and went over to Ernesto Samper's ranks.

More people are not expected to turn out for the runoff elections. Perhaps there will be less because the voters are tired (today's election was the second one this year and there is still another one following the runoff) and

because of the negative influence of the World Cup in which Colombia will play against Romania on the eve of the runoff elections.

Samper, Pastrana Proclaim Victory

PA3005041294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0332 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 29 May (EFE)—Candidates Ernesto Samper and Andres Pastrana proclaimed victory today in Colombia's initial presidential elections and both expressed their confidence that they will win in the runoff elections on 19 June.

The candidates made brief statements after 95.6 percent of the votes were counted and the results announced, giving them a wide margin over the remaining 16 candidates.

Liberal candidate Samper regretted that he did not win in the initial elections and thanked the residents of Santa Fe de Bogota who gave him a relatively broad margin compared with the rest of the country.

The liberals expected to garner more votes and the climate, although festive, was one of concern at the Orquidea Real Hotel where Samper kept abreast of the vote count.

The Pastrana supporters, on the other hand, were euphoric in the Tequendama Hotel because the slight margin garnered by Samper augurs well for them in the runoff elections.

Pastrana thanked his family, his supporters, and all of those who voted for any candidate and invited them to join his bandwagon.

Candidate Antonio Navarro of the Commitment with Colombia movement, who obtained a little over 3.5 percent of the votes, said he "was calm because despite all the difficulties that existed during the campaign, we obtained a decent and dignified vote which leaves us in a position to do well in the future."

Registrar: Runoff Election To Be Held

PA3005035194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisson Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0257 GMT 30 May 94

[Interview with Luis Camilo Osorio, Colombian national civil registrar, by Chelo Garcia from the National Civil Registrar's Office in Bogota—live]

[Text] [Garcia] Of the total of the countries votes, 95.6 percent have been tallied. Ernesto Samper Pizano received 2,551,029 votes, which represent 45.1 percent; Andres Pastrana Arango, 2,538,580 votes, which represent 44.9 percent; Antonio Navarro received 215,186 votes; Regina Betancourt, 64,610; Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez, 54,731; and Alberto Mendoza Morales, 30,393. Mr. Registrar, now that the eighth bulletin has been released, everything indicates that a runoff election will have to be held on 19 June to elect the new President

of the Republic. Is all set at the National Registrar's Office to meet this new challenge?

[Osorio] Yes. We had said that, because of the short time, we should suspend preparations for the runoff elections in case it proved unnecessary. But we will continue to work along the same lines, making preparations for the runoff election.

[Garcia] Is this the first time this has happened in Colombia?

[Osorio] Well, it is the first time there is an election by qualified vote. Consequently, a runoff election will be held.

Registrar on Election Tally

PA3005163394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 May 94

[Telephone interview with Luis Camilo Osorio, registrar general of the National Civil Registry Office, by station announcer Dario Arizmendi in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Good Morning, Mr. Luis Camilo Osorio.

[Osorio] Good morning, Dario.

[Arizmendi] Congratulations once again. The media, the observers, and the campaign headquarters have all highlighted your excellent work and that of your whole team at the National Registry, particularly, your diligence in releasing the information.

[Osorio] Why, thank you, Dario. We are very pleased, and I reaffirm that this was a team effort in which my coworkers accompanied me all the way.

[Arizmendi] Regarding the claims of alleged technical fraud made by Deputy Fabio Valencia Cosio, member of the Conservative Party National Directorate, just 72 hours ago?

[Osorio] There is absolutely no discussion of it.

[Arizmendi] Sir, will you issue Bulletin No. 11 before 1000 [1500 GMT]?

[Osorio] We can try, Dario, but I do not think we will be able to release it any earlier. I expect to get there as early as possible to see what we can do before the tallying process begins. I do think, however, that there has been a significant amount of information.

[Arizmendi] How will the runoff election ballot work? When will the position drawing take place? What will the numbering system be?

[Osorio] I do not think there will be a need for a drawing or a special numbering system or anything like that. I think all that would hamper the campaigns. In any case, that is a decision we have to make in conjunction with

the Electoral Council. Perhaps not to hold a drawing, but surely to approve a design for the ballot itself. There is not enough time to change all the advertising materials, nor would there be numbered positions on the ballot. One candidate would go on the left and the other on the right.

[Arizmendi] Would they carry the same 005 and 010 they did on the first ballot?

[Osorio] I imagine so, yes, because there is no other way to go about that. The funny thing is, however, that for the presidential election, that issue must be discussed with the Electoral Council, while the registrar approves all the other ballots on his own.

[Arizmendi] Based on the celebrity of yesterday's process, during which there was a very efficient flow of information throughout, we think you could have almost 90 or 95 percent of the results in by 1800 [2300 GMT] or 1900 [0000 GMT]. Is that so?

[Osorio] Dario, it is not so much the smaller number of candidates. I have said all along that the same number of voters who voted this time will again vote for one of the two candidates. Whoever is adding, moving documents, and so on, will take the same amount of time because the number of votes will still be the same, if not higher.

[Arizmendi] But there are less candidates, so the process should be simpler, should it not?

[Osorio] There are less candidates, but there is the same number of ballots. If 250 people voted at a given table, they are expected to do so again. Although they will only find two candidates on the ballot this time, they will vote in the same way they did the last time. Not much time can be saved here. Timing also depends on how fast local officials can get the tally sheets to a transmission center. Basically, the timing will be the same.

[Arizmendi] Will the electoral officials be the same ones who acted this time?

[Osorio] Yes. We have already summoned the members of the electoral boards, the table officials, and the logistics team, which includes transportation, communications, and supplies. Everything has been foreseen and practiced already.

[Arizmendi] There is no impediment for the election to be held in three weeks time, from an organizational, technical, and budget stand point?

[Osorio] No. Nothing at all. Everything has been planned, calculated, and foreseen. We had already decided this a while ago, because 21 days does not give much time for anything.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Registrar, will there be any change in the voter registration process? Will any voting cards be issued in the next few days?

[Osorio] Unfortunately not. We will issue voter cards to those who have that right, such as former rebels who have reentered civilian life, and we will continue to do so. Those who are not eligible, because they failed to register at least four months prior to the first election, will not receive their cards yet. If there are voter cards that were eligible and have not yet been delivered, we will go ahead and deliver them.

[Arizmendi] According to statistics and information from the Civil Registry, was this the closest election ever in Colombian history?

[Osorio] Without a doubt. Of course. The difference between the two front runners has no precedent.

[Arizmendi] Would you say there could be a lower abstention level this time around?

[Osorio] That is something we all hope for, Dario. Democracy can only be consolidated with a lot of votes and a lot of people.

Candidates Make Comments on Election 29 May

Pastrana Urges Followers To Forge Ahead

PA3005060594 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol
Network in Spanish 0507 GMT 30 May 94

[Statement by Andres Pastrana, Conservative Party presidential candidate, at the Tequendama Hotel in Santa Fe de Bogota on 29 May—recorded]

[Text] The change started today. [applause] We will complete this work in the next three weeks. The same policy was applied today. The people won. In the next three weeks, Colombia will return to the hands of all Colombians. [applause] The Colombian people have spoken with a strong, convincing voice. Today, you voted for a change. No more of the old promises and the old politics. You have voted for a new leadership above the old political machinery. Millions of Colombians have voted for the future, not for the past.

Throughout the country, this wonderful nation, there is a strong desire for change. We have seen our fellow countrymen on the streets. We have heard this in your voices, which have demanded a change, on the street and in your homes. We have felt it in the thousands of hands we have shaken, the many Colombians who have supported us with their hearts. Colombia's time is up. The time has arrived to give the people a better life. The time for a change is at hand. Today, our people sent a message to the guardians of the old politics. [Words indistinct] not along the old, eroded road. We will outline a new course. The vote of the humblest of our fellow countrymen has the same value as that of the most powerful and privileged. The message [applause] is that we are the masters of our own destiny.

The message is clear. Do not let yourselves be guided by the great but empty rhetoric. [Words indistinct] because

it is backed by a specific, serious, and consistent program to create new and better jobs, stimulate investment and industry, rescue the rural areas and peasants from neglect, lend to those who wish to start their own business, give the benefit of potable water to more than 10 million Colombians, [applause] build 360,000 new social interest homes, carry out the great educational reforms that will give all Colombians an opportunity to prepare themselves and succeed in the difficult and competitive world that awaits them at the turn of the 21st century.

[Words indistinct] material welfare but with the soul and our nation. We oppose the legalization of drugs in any form. [applause] This has been, is, and will continue to be my position; the same position I have maintained for 15 years, the one I will continue to maintain as president of all Colombians. [applause] We must set one goal: not to tolerate drugs, drug trafficking, the consumption of drugs, or narcoterrorism. This will not happen overnight or in a couple of months. But this is the path we must take and the one we must seek.

Samper Thanks People for Support

PA3005053494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0502 GMT 30 May 94

[Statement by Liberal Party presidential candidate Ernesto Samper at his campaign headquarters at the Orquidea Real Hotel in Santa Fe de Bogota on 29 May—recorded]

[Text] This is a message of optimism. I am very grateful to all the people who accompanied me today. Of course, we would have liked this election to be decided today, but that was not possible. I won the first round. [applause]

I hope I will be able to continue relying on you and on your happiness, support, and enthusiasm because we are going to win the runoff elections. Thanks to the people of Bogota, my dear city, for their exemplary behavior [applause, cheers] and to all the people throughout the country who supported me. Thank you very much.

I have come here with vice presidential running mate Dr. Humberto De la Calle, not only to celebrate the events of the day, as we are doing tonight with you, but also to celebrate the two to one victory we just had over the Milan soccer team. [applause] Thanks for your company and now, let the party continue.

Liberal Candidate Thanks Supporters

PA3005054894 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0504 GMT 30 May 94

[Statement by Humberto De la Calle, Colombian Liberal Party vice presidential candidate, at the Orquidea Real Hotel in Santa Fe de Bogota on 29 May—recorded]

[Text] Tonight, we are promising Colombia that we are going to win the runoff elections. [applause] Let there be

no doubt about this. The liberals will rise up again and give us their strong support on 19 June. Tonight, dear friends, my message is one of optimism, happiness, and liberal faith. We are going to succeed; we are going to win. We are full of vigor and we want you to know that tonight. This is my emotional message of gratitude to all the people who gave us their strong support in today's elections. [applause, cheers] Long live the Liberal Party. [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the alliance for Colombia. [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Thanks, dear friends. A thousand times, thanks.

Navarro Wolff To Announce Political Course

PA3005023994 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 94

[Report by Orlando Cano Vallejo]

[Text] Presidential candidate Antonio Navarro Wolff has just made some remarks on the election. Navarro, also former health minister, said the candidates who lead in the 29 May elections have phoned him. Navarro said Colombians acted decently in the election by voting for him in a larger number than anticipated, considering the complications that his campaign encountered regarding the other leading candidates, Ernesto Samper Pizzano and Andres Pastrana Arango. Tacitly responding to the media, Navarro Wolff admitted that Samper and Pastrana are ahead of him, and that on 2 June, he will make specific remarks on the course he will set for his political campaign, whether he will join any of the two candidates or remain an independent candidate, what he describes as a pebble in the shoe. Navarro said he has received numerous calls from his followers, who also [words indistinct] one of the two candidates, whose name he withheld.

The official report says Navarro Wolff will meet with his party's leadership on 2 June, when he will announce whether or not he will back one of the two candidates. He told Caracol Network that both Samper and Pastrana have phoned him but that any decision for either of the two candidates will be announced on 2 June in a closed-door meeting with the directors of his political campaign.

Presidential Candidates Interviewed on Results

PA3105024994 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1320 GMT 30 May 94

[Telephone interview with presidential candidates Ernesto Samper of the Liberal Party, Andres Pastrana of the Conservative Party, and Antonio Navarro Wolff of the April 19 Movement Democratic Alliance by Dario Arizmendi and unidentified reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota; from the "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Dr. Ernesto Samper, thank you very much for being with the Caracol Network of Colombia this morning. Antonio Navarro Wolff is also on the line. Good morning.

[Samper] Good morning, Antonio.

[Navarro] How are you doing?

[Arizmendi] Dr. Samper, how do you assess the election results?

[Samper] Dario, I am very pleased with them. They speak for themselves. I think it is clear that people in the major cities, where the most independent and less committed votes are, voiced their opinions. That was the case in Bogota, Cali, Barranquilla, and Bucaramanga. Their votes favored us and they also favored Antonio Navarro.

Most of the votes cast for Dr. Pastrana came from areas traditionally considered to be conservative. It does not surprise me that he won in the Departments of Caldas, Narino, and Northern Santander. I admit that Conservatives voted more massively there just as the Liberals voted massively in the departments that are traditionally liberal. The Conservative machinery favored the Conservative candidate and others favored me and my ticket partner Humberto de la Calle, and they also favored Antonio Navarro.

[Arizmendi] Dr. Navarro, do you agree with Dr. Samper's assessment?

[Navarro] I see something that perhaps Dr. Samper has not analyzed. The Liberal Party made an all out effort to win in the first round. A few hours before the elections, Former President Dr. Alfonso Lopez predicted there would be a knockout. That did not happen. I think that there was a technical tie. This result deserves an in-depth analysis with electoral figures in hand.

I think that abstention was high. This is another fact that we must take into account. Abstention could be even higher during the runoff. This could reflect a lack of voter interest in political options, especially the most favored ones during the first round. That is the result of polarization. Yesterday's decision was virtually reduced to two choices.

I would say this tie created a complicated situation for both presidential candidates. Each one has his own reasons and possibilities, but I think the key to salvation during the runoff—and this was determined yesterday by the support received by each participant—[pauses] it is now important to listen to the voice of minority groups, which were not heard very much during the final part of the campaign in view of the polarization that was created.

[Arizmendi] Dr. Navarro, in this first public flirting with Dr. Ernesto Samper, would you tell us on what bases you would be willing to hold talks to present your basic proposals next Thursday before the 400 or 500 people

who will be coming to discuss precisely what position should be adopted toward the two candidates?

[Navarro] Let us give it another name. This is not flirting but a friendly exchange. Regardless of what the electoral result might be, I hope to maintain a friendly relationship with Dr. Samper. I think we will make a decision after very calm reflection and after consulting many people. We have the responsibility of representing 220,000 people who heroically voted for us and against the establishment. We must genuinely represent those 220,000 people, and, thus, we will first consult and listen to many people before taking even one step forward.

[Arizmendi] Yes Dr. Samper?

[Samper] Well, I think Dr. Navarro explained his view very well. Of course, he has won an important opportunity. I have always felt a third political force is needed and that an opportunity should be given to an option other than the Liberal and Conservative options. I think he has every right to summon the people and I think there should be broad discussion. I am sure, because I have known Antonio Navarro for many years, that he will not make that decision by thinking of short-term considerations but of long-term considerations with regard to the support for the project of political opening, as the one that has been carried out since the new constitution.

Dario, a topic that we should highlight is that of the abstention rate. The fact is that we are moving from a representative democracy to a direct democracy as a result of the new Constitution. We have to continue working for the development of the structures that were established in the Constitution. Citizens' participation does not only mean electoral participation, but also political and social participation, which is what will finally enable this country to have a much stronger democracy.

[Arizmendi] We inform our listeners and Drs. Ernesto Samper Pizano and Antonio Navarro that we are going to welcome Dr. Andres Pastrana Arango now. Good morning Dr. Pastrana.

[Pastrana] Good morning, Dario.

[Arizmendi] Colombians and Drs. Samper and Navarro are listening to you. We are very happy to have you again on Latin America's first radio network after yesterday's election results.

[Pastrana] Dario, I am also very happy and pleased to be back on Radio Caracol. Permit me to greet Ernesto Samper and Antonio Navarro and to congratulate them. Yesterday, we held a first-rate democratic election. Let me congratulate Ernesto, Antonio, Regina Betancourt, General Maza, and each and every candidate who participated in yesterday's elections. I wanted to personally greet you Dario but I have an interview at 0900 with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, a man who you know has a lot to teach us with regard to the topic of peace. In

any case, I wanted to greet you Dario and all my contenders, wishing them luck and success. We have to work hard these next three weeks.

[Arizmendi] Thank you Dr. Pastrana for your gesture. I want to invite you to come tomorrow to our studios or to talk with us over the telephone from your house at 0730. We can talk at length about yesterday's elections and the future.

[Pastrana] I will be there Dario. I would have liked to be there right now. Thank you for the invitation, so tomorrow I will be talking with all Colombians.

[Arizmendi] Well sir, we will wait for you at 0730. Very nice of you to accept; have a good day, and thank you very much.

[Arizmendi] It is 0834 and we continue with Dr. Samper and Antonio Navarro. Dr. Samper, what happened with the Liberals who did not vote with the sufficient zeal and profession for your party to win in the first round?

[Samper] I feel I received a significant portion of the Liberal vote. One cannot regard this in absolute terms but in terms of a comparison between the congressional and presidential elections. Liberal leaders were able to get in yesterday's votes the same number of votes they got in the congressional elections. Of course, we still have to summon many Liberal sectors. In some strife-torn areas, public order problems hampered the vote of certain Liberal municipalities, like Bolivar and the municipalities in the Santander and Norte de Santander Departments. At any rate, I think Liberals are going to be much more efficient in the runoff.

[Reporter] If one looks at what the Liberal and Conservative Parties have been historically, one realizes Pastrana got the vote of the Conservative party and others who rallied around his program, personality, or any other reason. Others who are not in the Conservative party joined that campaign. The same thing did not happen with you because all the Liberal Party did not vote for you, and your Alliance for Colombia group did not yield results, it seems.

[Samper] On the contrary, if we did not have the support from sectors that make up the Alliance for Colombia, the amount of votes would have been less.

I do not think the independent vote went to Dr. Pastrana. I respectfully tell you, I repeat that such a vote was concentrated in the big cities and the big cities voted for our ticket. I do admit that, initially, the vote was proportionally greater for Dr. Pastrana's Conservative machine. It can also be the case that in certain regions, such as the coffee region, there could have been a protest vote, a vote that went to Dr. Pastrana [words indistinct] there are surprises. I repeat, if one looks at the figures, department by department, one would see that there was no change to the historical trend. It was not a case that those who were Liberal Party supporters became Conservative. What happened is that there was a great

Conservative vote turnout in favor of Dr. Pastrana and to this, we must add the vote of support by regions especially affected by the crisis in the agricultural sector.

[Arizmendi] One must suppose that there will be changes in strategy or perhaps a readjustment or a strengthening of the leadership positions within the campaign. When will you make a decision in this regard?

[Samper] We will analyze the figures this week. We will establish contact with the regions. We will summon those who have been supporting us. The idea is to make decisions which, of course, will not change the strategy much. This week's polls predicted a virtual tie which is just what happened in the end. Of course, we would have preferred to win in the first elections, as Navarro said. It was not possible, however. This gives minorities the opportunity to seek an understanding in order to have a great majority in the next round of elections. I think this is democratic. Runoff elections have that virtue. I am obviously willing to form that majority seeking an agreement with all the sectors that participated in yesterday's elections.

[Arizmendi] Dr. Samper, obviously the answer to as crude a question as the following will not be easy, but what arguments and bureaucratic reasons are you planning to use to convince Navarro Wolff to support you?

[Samper] I do not expect to use bureaucratic reasons to convince Navarro Wolff to support me. I think this is out of the question because the truth is I have never reached political understandings on the basis of giving out bureaucratic positions. I think Antonio Navarro has never done so throughout his political career. We are responsible for making this country work on the basis of programmatic and ideological coalitions. It is not a matter of bureaucratic positions, but rather ideological and doctrinaire positions. I am confident we will have the chance to reach an understanding with Antonio Navarro in this arena.

[Arizmendi] Dr. Navarro, are you willing to form a programmatic and ideological alliance on the basis of some principles with Dr. Ernesto Samper, or are you also willing to reach a kind of governability pact with his political group, should he win the 19 June elections?

[Navarro Wolff] [Reporter says communication was lost]

[Arizmendi] Unfortunately, we lost communication with Dr. Navarro. Let us go on with Dr. Samper. Dr. Samper, as for the 29 May elections, there are two greatly talked-about issues: Are you going to maintain your emphasis on economic openings and the agricultural sector? Do you believe it is necessary to advocate more definite policies in such areas as coffee production and urban development?

[Samper] I think we must put an emphasis on the countryside. I think part of the profound crisis that was clearly expressed yesterday by the municipalities is that there is a profound agricultural crisis as never before

seen in Colombian history. This is why for the past year, I have been alerting the government and authorities on the risks of failing to address this agricultural crisis, which the subversion has helped amplify.

[Arizmendi] Finally Dr. Samper, I thank you for these statements to the Caracol Radio Network despite your staying up all night, the parties, the expectations, the tension, and the intensity with which you lived yesterday's events. There are many Liberal leaders—I insist on the word many—who were very upset with the campaign yesterday because the politicians believe they were ignored and not taken seriously. Are they going to be taken into account during these runoff elections?

[Samper] I have always been in direct contact with Liberal leaders. We appreciate their work, support, and participation. We, the independent and uncompromised sectors and the sectors that do not operate through the traditional Liberal and Conservative parties, have been working hard. We will continue with this strategy and we hope to count on the leaders' support and understanding to ensure that they will gather the votes of the so-called Liberal active membership. We believe our responsibility lies in enticing the new sectors that can support our Liberal plan, and we expect to achieve this goal.

[Arizmendi] You have also reported that it seems some Conservative politicians purchased votes in Atlantico Department. Will you file a report?

[Samper] We have very distressing reports on an alleged vote purchase in Atlantico Department. I will personally investigate these reports this morning because any vote-purchasing accusation would be serious. I think it would be very adverse for this democratic process.

[Arizmendi] Finally, it is important to note the electoral results in Santa Fe de Bogota and their meaning to you and to the city's political present and future. How would you interpret your victory here in Santa Fe de Bogota?

[Samper] The first thing I see is that people put an end to the myth that the only mayor Santa Fe de Bogota had was Dr. Pastrana. The truth is that people responded generously and enthusiastically to the appeal we made. This position has a lot to do with the plans I have proposed for the city from the beginning. I committed myself to building the Santa Fe de Bogota subway, creating the Social Advisory Board [Consejeria Social] to coordinate government presence in the city, and relocating the Police. I believe this contributed to the vote of confidence the city gave me. As I said earlier, if there is a city where people voted without prior commitments it is Santa Fe de Bogota. People here never requested t-shirts, alcohol, or transportation; they only wanted a convincing message. This is what happened yesterday, and I am very pleased because in addition to those who voted for other candidates, the majority voted for us in Santa Fe de Bogota and other cities.

[Unidentified reporter] It was very kind of you to grant us this interview on your first impressions of the results of the elections.

Gaviria Addresses Nation on Elections 28 May

PA2805040294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0248 GMT 28 May 94

[Address to the nation by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo in Santa Fe de Bogota on 27 May—recorded]

[Text] Colombians: On Sunday, the nation will experience one its most important moments. It is, as we all know, the election of the person who will govern Colombia during the next four years. The person to whom I will surrender power on 7 August will receive a mandate from his fellow citizens, a mandate—like the one I received when I assumed the office of president in 1990—that obliges and commits him during his administration to seek the welfare of his fellow citizens and a better future for Colombia.

That is why today, I want to devote a few minutes to speak to you about what I consider our duty to be next Sunday for Colombia, our children, and our children's children. The first thing I must say to each of you, to every Colombian who is listening, is that we must vote. We must vote with conviction, thinking about the nation's future. We must vote freely, thinking of our families' future. We must vote with solidarity, thinking of the needy in Colombia. We must vote with decision, thinking of the country's peace. But above all else, we must be clear that that vote, that simple action of getting up early in the morning and walking to the polling station, studying the ballot, and choosing each one's preferred candidate, will influence what happens to each resident of this country beginning on 7 August.

To not vote, in turn, leaves in the hands of those who vote our personal future, that of our children, our parents and brothers, and our dearly beloved fatherland, which has progressed so much, but which faces so many challenges now and in the future.

Therefore, I invite you to exercise this right, which is also a duty of every good citizen. By voting, we help build the future of Colombia. This nation has a strong democratic tradition, which today is applauded and recognized by the entire international community. There is no doubt Colombians have advanced a lot regarding citizens' participation and collective affairs of life. And there is no doubt our electoral organization is one of the most responsible and efficient in Latin America. This democratic tradition will be strengthened if we all vote, and above all, if we all support the National Civil Registry and respect the rules, some of which I will stress today categorically.

First, as has been reported, all forms of propaganda have been banned on the day of the elections. That is, in this election, as happens today in most civilized nations, no political propaganda will be allowed, neither moving,

nor still, nor audio propaganda. In other words, wearing propaganda t-shirts, using loudspeakers, or putting up posters or billboards about the elections or candidates will not be permitted.

Second, this process requires that the media act responsibly and that they respect the legal provisions. The government will not hesitate—hear me right—the government will not hesitate to punish exemplarily radio stations or television concessionaires who break the rules. The media cannot broadcast interviews with political-electoral intentions, propaganda, opinion shows, news conferences on election day. They can only provide information on electoral results from electoral officials at polling stations, the National Civil Registry, and its branches. When reporting on partial information, the media must inform the official electoral source. And the media will not be able, under the risk of facing penalties that may lead to the cancellation of the license and concession, to divulge projections or polls on electoral results.

Finally, regarding public order, the media will only be able to report information confirmed by official sources. What is more important for news neutrality is that the media will not be allowed to reproduce results issued by international news agencies abroad or the projections made by them on the vote because it would adversely affect the provisions of neutrality.

Third, this process requires the absolute impartiality of public employees. Yesterday, the prosecutor general warned government officials about the severe sanctions the Prosecutor General's Office will impose on those who violate the legal norms on impartiality or use in some way public property in favor of any candidate.

Presidential delegates, whose mission is to observe the normal development of the elections throughout the entire national territory have been sent to all departments of Colombia. Believe me, the government will persecute and punish those who do not observe the legal norms.

Fellow countrymen, allow me one final observation on the elections. We must vote to give a signal to the enemies of peace in Colombia, the violent ones, those who have missed the train of history because they have not had the courage to leave behind their cowardly rifles, attacks, kidnappings, extortions, and their obsolete rhetoric. This message must be heard by them. It must say that the Colombian people demand peace and demand attitudes of peace. It must say, above all, that the people of Colombia support the good things, teamwork, and that they support our future.

A copy of an old newspaper, which was in the hands of our ancestors in 1884, some 100 years ago, quotes a phrase mentioned by Simon Bolivar which I believe summarizes what we must all seek on Sunday when we go out to exercise our right to elect a president. Bolivar said: I would trade all my dictates and titles, even that of liberator, for that of a good citizen. If all 30 million

Colombians are good citizens, like Bolivar said, if we are good citizens, we will undoubtedly elect a president, who will always seek a more just, equitable, prosperous, and peaceful fatherland for our good and for the welfare of the new generations of Colombians. Good night and thank you very much.

Pastrana Urges Stronger U.S. Trade Ties 28 May
PA2805230594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Canal A in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 May 94

[Report by Edward Amaya from the "Cripton" newscast]

[Text] Andres Pastrana, presidential candidate for the Conservative Party, spent some time with the foreign press this morning. He spoke of the need to reinforce commercial relations between our country and the United States. According to the candidate, relations between the two nations should not revolve around drug trafficking alone.

[Begin Pastrana recording] We cannot continue to maintain relations based solely on the issue of drug trafficking. Trade between the two countries is on the rise, and I believe it is important for us and for the United States to reinforce that commercial trade, increase our participation, and not continue to base our relationship on drug trafficking alone. [end recording]

Foreign correspondents from the United States, Mexico, Argentina, and Spain met this morning with Andres Pastrana and Luis Fernando Ramirez. During the encounter, Pastrana affirmed that a peace process must begin with the insurgent groups during the next administration.

[Begin Pastrana recording] When there is a will for peace, peace can be attained. We have already seen this in Medellin with the People's Militias, who demonstrated their desire for peace, and the peace was signed. [end recording]

Pastrana Makes 2d Statement

PA2705161494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 May 94

[Statement by Andres Pastrana, presidential candidate for the Colombian Conservative Party; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Friends: This has been an extraordinary campaign for all of us. It has been a trip to the future, a trip of our hearts and souls. All over the country, amid both problems and hopes, I have sensed a strong desire for change. I can tell you the time has come. I have seen it in the faces of Colombians, men and women, children, youths, and elderly people, from La Guajira to Narino and from the Pacific to the Amazon. They have said it: Colombia's time is here. I have sensed that desire for change in the hands I have shaken and in the people's embrace. They have said it; you say it; and I say it: Colombia's time is here.

This has not been simply a candidate's campaign. This campaign has been inspired by one cause: Making Colombia a country of opportunities, putting an end to the vices of the old policy and starting a head-on struggle against poverty, whose shadow has been following us for some time.

As president, I will struggle to have a strong economy, not only for the good of the economy itself, but for your personal well-being, our people's well-being. The success of our economic policy will not only be determined by the cold statistical figures; it will be determined by the number of good jobs with good salaries and by the higher standard of living all Colombians will have. Our economic plan is aimed at creating more jobs; not any type of jobs, but well-paid jobs, which is the way all Colombians can achieve real well-being. This will require a strategy to produce more and increase our exports, encouraging and supporting the initiatives of many of you as creators of enterprises, micro-enterprises, and sources of jobs.

That plan will be a fragile task unless we resolutely attack inflation, which has become the most costly and unjust indirect tax for all Colombians, particularly for the poor because it makes the family basket more expensive and has become the reason for daily anguish. We are all paying too much to survive. This is the time to change that situation. I will reduce inflation to 9 percent. Other countries have done it, and we can do it too. We want our people to earn salaries with which they can pay for public utilities, bus fares, and food. In other words, it is to improve their purchasing power. In order to achieve that goal, my government will exercise healthy fiscal discipline. In other words, I commit myself to making sure my administration does not incur excessive expenses and uses funds wisely. I will assume the responsibility of carefully handling public expenses to control the inflationary pressure and fight revaluation.

I have reiterated that the Cusiana oil well is an excellent opportunity to invest in our people and in infrastructure if we make good use of that extra income. It is like winning the lottery; the winner can either waste the money in one night of fun or can make good use of it by expanding his business, sending his children to study, or making improvements in his house.

As president, I will prevent the squandering of those resources. They will be spent in house construction, education, health, and the well-being of all of you. The petroleum of Colombia belongs to the people of Colombia and the benefits of petroleum must go to their owners, that is, all Colombians.

I have assumed a clear commitment with farmers and cattlemen to ensure that their activity becomes good business again. The countryside has been hit hard. We will rescue the countryside by restoring peace and by offering new technology, better marketing mechanisms, and better financing systems. I will lend a hand to coffee

growers because they generously lent a hand to Colombia in the past and because coffee continues to be important to the country's future.

We will consolidate the opening process, but under the unquestionable premise that it should bring new opportunities for Colombians, with greater social justice. We cannot resign ourselves to less. We will ensure that its contributions to economic growth reach a great majority of Colombians and ensure that it will not reach the same few hands.

I have always been convinced, and I have confirmed this lately during my direct contact with Colombians, that more than investing in specific projects, we must invest in our people. A country of opportunities is a country that demands investments in training, retraining, and education.

I have heard some say that the benefits of investing in these aspects are evident only in the distant future. I say that the economic and social future of Colombia is defined in the present. Those who assure that it is possible to have more and better jobs without training, retraining, and education are ill-informed, or what is worse, are deceiving the people.

Countries such as Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore have followed this path. They achieved a surprising growth rate in a very short time. Not many years ago, I visited those countries, and their standard of living was very inferior to ours. They are now clearly ahead of us.

In this regard, and in specific terms, what we should do and what will be done under my leadership as president is the following: offer incentives to businessmen for training and retraining workers. We will retrain 2 million workers in the next four years. We will offer training in the evening to those who work during the day to ensure that they increase their capabilities and knowledge and also to ensure that they are able to obtain a better job with higher pay. We will offer training to farmers to ensure that they become more productive and more efficient and become countryside businessmen.

My project to invest in our children and youths is not a long-term goal. It is an urgent priority. We must guarantee primary and secondary education to more than 1.9 million youths who do not have it today. We must also guarantee preschool education to 700,000 children. This ambitious project, which costs 500 billion pesos, would be financed with resources of the fiscal [word indistinct] and the nation's regular revenues that the municipalities have a right to receive.

May I remind those who insist on criticizing large investments in education that the cost of ignorance is greater. We would lose talent, jobs, and economic growth; we would undermine our ability to compete; and we would be overlooking the fact that education is the starting point of authentic equality.

There can be no certainty of a future if we fail to protect our natural resources that are being increasingly depleted day after day—our forests, water, and soil. Development must be sustainable if we want to ensure that it is human. We must become the guardians of this wealth, which is a legacy for future generations.

Perhaps the most complex part of my job as mayor was the handling of narcoterrorism, which not only hit political leaders and the powerful who find protection more easily, but common citizens, who could become the next victim of uncontrolled violence at any time. Today, violence and insecurity still prevail throughout the country, claiming lives every day and building fear among Colombians. It is difficult to convince investors to risk their opportunities in a virtual war zone.

We have made some progress in the last few years. A Colombia under the stigma and threat of violence, however, will always be a nation that will not be able to fully develop its economic and human potential. As president, I will spare no effort and I pledge to do everything within my reach to ensure that peace and harmony will blossom again in all the corners of the country, because our families, our parents, and our children are the foundations of society. We must live again free from threats of violence, drug trafficking, and drugs.

We need more strength and perseverance in the fight against fear and violence. We must not fear fear itself. The guerrillas and terrorists struck a diabolical alliance. As president, I will not hesitate to enforce the law. I already told the country that the government does not choose between war and peace; the government's responsibility is to respect the institutions and to defend the lives of Colombians. This responsibility leaves no room for arguments and focuses the government's unavoidable attitude on fighting subversion.

Should the guerrillas want peace, they must prove it with facts rather than with empty remarks and simple rhetorical speeches. Should they be willing to do this, I will be glad to personally negotiate with those who have taken up arms, with a positive attitude and without shirking my duties. This is the broadest hope a ruler can offer. Should the guerrillas maintain their current attitude, however, I will exert authority without hesitation because it is my duty. I am a friend of peace, yet I refuse to engage in fruitless talks, as previous presidents did. As they became frustrated, our fellow countrymen lost faith and confidence.

I will reinforce the Armed Forces and the Police to make them into a professional army. I will end the compulsory draft, and I will invest in military intelligence to effectively combat those who insist on destabilizing the institutions and making attempts on the lives and patrimony of Colombians. I am determined to strongly repress drug trafficking, dirty money, and corruption, (?with) the moral authority our liberator once dreamed of. I will try to make Colombia the moral country the

immense majority wants. At the same time, I will fight the socioeconomic causes that triggered the spread of these scourges and drug consumption in Colombia. You can be sure of one thing: I will support neither the legalization of drugs, nor its production, commercialization, or consumption. This flat-out defiance was and will always be my position. This position is not new for me; I have always thought like this because I believe that drugs consumed 15 years ago were as harmful for our youths as the ones currently consumed.

We must all commit ourselves to rescue our countryside, cities, streets, and thoroughfares from criminal hands in order to reestablish harmony among the citizenry. We will create specialized groups to rid the country of mafias made up of apartment thieves [apartamenteros], car thieves [jaladores], and all types of thugs, starting in large cities.

To close my speech, which is being televised for the benefit of the Colombian people, I will speak from my heart. A long battle is about to end, and I hope everything that previously divided us is left behind and that we work together to achieve a united fatherland. I have tried not to focus on my contenders' mistakes. If they hurt me, the wounds are already healed. I sincerely extend my friendly hand to all those who sought to be democratically elected by recognizing that their messages were impregnated with love for Colombia, a Colombia we all agree must be better and fairer.

Someday when this campaign is long forgotten, I want it to be said that we embarked on it full of love for Colombia, trusting that our efforts would help it progress. Moreover, I want it to be said that we did not alter the faith in and the loyalty to our principles and that we attempted to display the best feelings of our population in my actions and words. We hurt no fellow countrymen. Our unalterable objective was to join efforts toward accomplishing a common national goal. We were determined to make our presidential term the crusade to ready our country for entering the threshold of progress and reconciliation as we approach the new century.

I believe a president's mission is to fight to ensure that each one of us has a job and an income. I believe the struggle for the well-being of all of us within the framework of peace must constitute a president's daily struggles. I also believe the next president's efforts will focus on fighting for a Colombia full of opportunities. This is why I am currently seeking your mandate. Your needs and expectations will become the yardstick for my decisions. I will strive to build a country, a government, and an economy that will reflect the kindness, honesty, and strength of our people. I cannot promise you everything, but I can promise you one thing: Should you decide to give me an opportunity, with God's blessings and help, I will not fail you. With our vote, let us make Sunday [29 May] the day to forge the Colombia we all dream of. Good evening.

Samper Favors Maintaining Cuban Ties 27 May

PA2705182394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0806 GMT
27 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 27 May (EFE)—Presidential candidate Ernesto Samper favors maintaining an open policy, initiated by current President Cesar Gaviria, toward Cuba, indicating he will not sponsor measures against the Cuban people. "I will not sponsor measures that go against the Cuban people such as the embargo provided for by the Torricelli Bill. I will continue relations with Cuba, initiated by President Gaviria. Although we may not agree, as we do not with some aspects of the Cuban political system, while the island's government does not meddle in Colombia's internal matters, we will support these relations."

During an exclusive interview with EFE, Samper, one of the two candidates leading the polls for the up-coming presidential elections, expressed his opinion on some current international issues. Here are some excerpts.

Guerrillas

The guerrilla top brass is still politically motivated. We must seek a dialogue because we cannot accept this being used to engage in political proselytizing. The day I sit down at the negotiating table it will be because I am certain the process will achieve something. In the past few years, there were six attempts to negotiate that ended in nothing. I will not make this error. The peace I achieve will be permanent.

Meanwhile, my peace proposal is based on continuing the modernization process in the Armed Forces, complemented by a greater effort in the intelligence field and conceived within respect for human rights. Likewise, some minimum commitments to humanize the war must be established with the rebels in order not to adversely affect the civilian population. Peace will be achieved, not only with the persuasive presence of weapons, but also with the state's dissuasive presence, jobs, and agriculture development in the areas of violence.

Human Rights

I will not say that there are no human rights violations in Colombia, because there are. Nevertheless, we are the country that made more institutional efforts to control these, as is acknowledged by international organizations. We have a Presidential Advisory Human Rights Committee; we have human rights departments in the universities and schools; we have developed within the Army a profound campaign with regard to human rights.... The nation is concerned and conscious of the problem. One must not forget that we are at war with the guerrillas. In a war, the rights of those who are against the government, as well as the rights of the government forces, can be violated. The violations carried out by the guerrillas must be investigated.

Economic Opening

We will not do an about face; we will not eliminate the reduction of barriers; we will not change the regulations on foreign investment; and we will not give up what has been gained in the field of mobilization in the labor market. We must progress in infrastructure and technology as necessary supplements to the internationalization process of the economy and make a great effort in social investment.

The model of radical opening applied several years ago is being revised in all Latin America in the wake of the events in Chiapas. This set off an alarm, sounding an alert on the neoliberal model of savage capitalism. Neoliberalism was causing enormous social devastation; Chiapas is the clearest indication that the pendulum is returning. Although we are not going to return to the old protectionism models of the 60's, we are currently in a situation that forces us to preserve the social damage of the neoliberal model. Either the powerful nations create jobs, apply controls on development and subsidy policies for the agriculture sectors, or we will be condemned to outbreaks of violence as in Chiapas, Caracas, or Peru. True social outbreaks could occur that could do away with all the democratic systems.

Drug Legalization

Fifteen years ago when I proposed drug legalization, this problem was reduced to the marijuana plantations in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta. At that time, my theory was to give the peasants the possibility to substitute their crops and leave behind drugs. What was done was to increase the pressure and to spray the plantations. From marijuana, we went to cocaine, from cocaine to drug trafficking, and from drug trafficking to narcoterrorism. Currently drug legalization is not feasible in Colombia. It would be seen as an amnesty, as a pardon for all that has occurred in the nation in the past 15 years. This does not mean that the international arguments I then outlined do not continue to hold true. Drug consuming nations are not making significant efforts to reduce drug consumption nor to control money laundering. Until there is world-wide legalization, Colombia's obligation is to more firmly demand that the consumer nations make a greater effort.

Drug Trafficking and Economy

Drug trafficking is what makes the opening process in Colombia difficult. It is being used to destabilize the source of capital, and it is also destabilizing the opening and importation process. We cannot ignore that with these mechanisms of free exchange and free trade, some hot money from drug trafficking, seeking to become legitimate, have infiltrated.

One must be careful with regard to the issue of exchange revenues, and we must partially reestablish customs because we have practically dismantled them. An opening process is very simple. Imports are allowed, with the monetary margin obtained; the use of dollars is

created; exports are devaluated and stimulated; and with this more imports are purchased. Here we only went halfway. We allowed imports and the entrance of capital. Large amounts of speculative capital arrived forcing us to reevaluate our currency. With this revaluation we have held back exports. This adversely affects jobs, agriculture, and industries, because in an open economy revaluation does away with everything.

Latin American Integration

I am convinced that in the coming years, we should pass from the stage of free trade agreements to the stage of attempting the integration process once again. It is fine to sign free trade agreements, but the time has come for integration. Not the integration we had 20 years ago, toward the inside, creating a sort of wall so that no one could come. Rather, it is an integration toward the outside, as is being seen in other parts of the world with the forming of trade blocks, such as the European or Asian blocks. Latin America must take up the integration issue once again if it wants to negotiate in conditions of comparative advantage all the free trade agreements ready to be signed, not only within the hemisphere but also in other economic regions of the world. Here is where I see the important advantage of integration.

Elections Suspended in Simiti Due To Violence

PA2805200094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1813 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 May (EFE)—At least six people, including one policeman, one soldier, and one civilian, were killed today in three different guerrilla actions in Colombia, the day before the presidential elections. At the same time, the authorities decided to suspend elections in 12 small communities in the Simiti Municipality, Bolivar Department, in the northern Colombia, due to guerrilla threats.

A Defense Ministry source said the most serious incident took place in a rural area known as Caguan, in southern Colombia, when a group of insurgents attacked and murdered a policeman, a soldier, and a woman. In this clash, one of the rebels was killed. He belonged to the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Near Baraya, in Huila Department, also in southern Colombia, a rebel was killed and two more were captured at a military checkpoint, when they tried to attack the troops. The same source reported that in the Uraba area, in Colombia's northeast, the Army foiled an attack against a police garrison in Carepa, where one guerrilla was killed.

Electoral authorities decided to suspend elections in 12 small communities in the Simiti Municipality. Simiti Mayor Elias Escalante said the decision to suspend the elections was made because the presence of guerrillas did not allow National Civil Registry (an organization in

charge of the elections) delegates to go to these small communities. Simiti is located about 900 km north of Santa Fe de Bogota.

On Sunday, Colombians will elect President Cesar Gaviria's successor from among 18 candidates, even though runoff elections on 19 June will probably need to be held because it is unlikely any of the candidates will reach an absolute majority according to previous polls.

Presidency Communique Denies Suspension

PA2805231994 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 28 May 94

[Press communique issued by the Colombian Presidency in Santa Fe de Bogota on 28 May; from the "Quarter of an Hour Caracol" news segment]

[Text] Given various news reports that elections have been suspended in some corregimientos, the government hereby informs the public that elections have not been suspended anywhere in the territory. Election preparations are under way throughout the country.

[Issued in] Santa Fe de Bogota, Capital District

[Dated] 28 May 1994

Official Disappears; Guerrillas Raid Police Post

PA2905174694 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1613 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] The presidential elections are just getting started in Segovia, delayed by the mysterious disappearance of Damian Orlando Alvarez Cerna, municipal registrar. This occurred between last night and early today at that northeastern Antioquia mining site. Department and Segovia authorities, who fear that the official has been kidnapped, have reported that he was last seen early Saturday night. Today his apartment was found empty.

The authorities added that around that same time, members of the outlawed National Army of Liberation raided the police post in the Fraguas community where they stole documents assigned to the two voting tables. Given these events, the department's Registry Office appointed two of its officials in Medellin, who were immediately transferred by a National Police helicopter. The two registrars, one of them [name indistinct], were granted special powers, while being supplied with additional documentation to replace what was stolen in Fraguas. Department Registrar Hector Arango Morales told Caracol that, despite the difficulties, the elections will be closed at 1600. To speed up the process the designated officials were given instructions to increase the 27 tables originally provided for in the urban areas and, if necessary, those of the rural areas.

Ruben Dario Jaramillo, Antioquia's ombudsman, joined the protests against what had occurred in Segovia, while

urging those who have knowledge of Mr. Vasquez [name as heard] Cerna's whereabouts to respect the official's life and release him.

ELN Guerrillas Kill Official

PA3005195494 Paris AFP in Spanish 1653 GMT
30 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 30 May (AFP)—This Monday, Army of National Liberation (ELN) guerrillas ambushed and killed Santiago Angarita, a community leader in the Colombian town of Convencion, Norte de Santander, from whom the rebels seized voting cards from this Sunday's presidential elections and burned them.

Radio reports from Santa Fe de Bogota stated Angarita was intercepted on his way to the National Civil Registry of Cucuta, a provincial capital bordering Venezuela. The guerrillas stripped Angarita of the sealed ballot box and then killed him.

The community leader transported the votes cast at the Municipalities of San Jose, Las Pitias, and Cartagenita and the town of Convencion.

Presidential elections held this Sunday in Colombia resulted in a virtual tie between Liberal Party candidate Ernesto Samper and Conservative Party candidate Andres Pastrana, who will vie in a runoff election on Sunday, 19 June.

Guerrillas Disrupt Cauca Elections

PA2905191894 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol
Network in Spanish 1810 GMT 29 May 94

[Telephone interview with Cauca Department Governor Temistocles Ortega Narvaez in Cauca Department by reporter Alberto Ordonez Munoz in Emisoras Caracol studios in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Ortega] We have received a report on an incident in La Sierra Municipality. Subversives [word indistinct] the police station in that municipality. The main voting site in the municipality is located near the police station. The situation was [words indistinct] and immediately controlled by the policemen and soldiers in the area. Air support was also requested, and we have learned that the situation is under control. The people are once again voting and we hope everything will continue in complete normalcy.

[Ordonez] Mr. Governor, we have learned that one person was wounded.

[Ortega] That is correct. The report states that William Andres [word indistinct] was wounded.

Skirmishes, Minor Problems Reported

PA2905212894 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol
Network in Spanish 1822 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Presumed terrorists of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] burned three vehicles, two armed skirmishes between Army troops and subversives of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], and other isolated incidents such as difficulties in transferring electoral officials in southern Bolivar Department, where new elections could be called, are the only incidents so far in relation to the democratic event taking place today in Colombia [7-second break in reception] analyzing the situation in the Municipalities of San Pablo and Simiti, where elections could not start, but in the rest of the country the situation is completely normal.

Meanwhile, the Joint Operations Command of the Military Forces confirmed that three interdepartmental buses were attacked and burned by CNG subversives on the Trunk Highway between Riohacha and Santa Marta.

The Army killed three presumed FARC members in the rural area of Baraya, Huila Department. Meanwhile, in [name indistinct] another column of that subversive group ambushed an Army patrol and wounded a soldier.

Defense Minister Comments on Election Security

PA2905232394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol
in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 May 94

[Interview with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda by Manuel Monsalve from the National Defense Ministry on 29 May—recorded]

[Text] [Pardo] The preliminary assessment of the election process is that at the beginning of the day, there were some problems at some voting tables located in several municipalities. There were problems in 86 voting tables, but these were subsequently solved. The most common problem were those related to delegates not arriving on time. The voting process was halted while the delegate in charge was being replaced. In other cases, problems were mostly related to cases of vandalism—very few cases—mostly destruction of election material. We were able to observe problems [words indistinct] in the partial results we now have. These results will mostly be modified later on in practically 47 tables. I would like to state that there are more than 45,000 voting tables [words indistinct], and we only have had problems with less than 47 tables.

[Monsalve] Which departments presented problems?

[Pardo] In Veredas [words indistinct] less than two tables, in 31 different communities. This did not undermine municipal elections, however, or those places where there were more than two tables. We were able to solve these problems.

[Monsalve] Mr. Minister, can you tell those Colombians who were able to vote in the departments where there were the most problems?

[Pardo] I repeat, the departments with the most problems were Bolivar, Norte de Santander, Santander, and Casanare. I repeat, however, these were mostly problems that appeared in those places where there were only one or two voting tables. [Words indistinct] places where the voter turnout is quite low. I expect to compare the information we now have on the 47 tables where there were problems, with those of the 47,000 tables distributed throughout the country.

[Monsalve] With respect to the 13 March voting process, would you say that security increased [words indistinct]?

[Pardo] Security, in comparison to 13 March, has increased greatly and is much tighter. In this case, there were fewer places affected. There were fewer incidents of voters being prevented from voting and fewer incidents of vandalism than on 13 March.

Military Presence Increased

PA2805020994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] No elections have ever been so well protected in the country. At least, this is what the defense minister, who has set up a communications network throughout the country, has planned. The government has increased its military presence in the country's most conflict-ridden areas to prevent guerrilla threats from hampering Sunday's elections.

[Begin Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda recording] The Armed Forces are present at every municipality seat. Approximately 88 percent of the voting sites are covered, also. The Armed Forces are present at every location with more than three voting sites. This protection of the election process by the Public Force has been the most complete in the country's history. [end recording]

The minister said the Army's presence on the streets of Santa Fe de Bogota is due to the election process and not to the capital's security problems.

[Begin Pardo Rueda recording] The Army can cooperate with the police in the latter's work but cannot replace it. [end recording]

For election day, a communications system has been set up which will make it possible for authorities to act quickly and effectively if necessary.

Ecuador

Amnesty International Member Attacked

PA2805183294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1826 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Quito, 27 May (EFE)—Human rights organizations in Quito today reported that Celso Garbarz, an Italian citizen and a member of the Amnesty International (AI) executive committee, was attacked by unidentified individuals who left him unconscious on a street in a tourist sector of Quito. "Robbery was not the motive for the crime because none of his personal possessions were taken. He was attacked by three men," Elsie Monge, president of the Ecumenical Human Rights Committee (CEDHU), told EFE.

Garbarz attended the annual meeting of the Ecuadoran chapter of the AI in Cuenca last week. He was visiting Quito at the time of the attack. Last night Garbarz flew to London where the AI headquarters are located.

Elsie Monge said that "while in Cuenca and Quito, the AI official addressed the issues of detained and missing people, difficulties in recognizing the status of refugees, and systematic torture in Ecuador."

According to statements made by Garbarz, on Sunday he was attacked by three well-dressed and armed men who stepped out of a vehicle "and began hitting and insulting me without any explanation, inflicting multiple wounds and contusions, and leaving me lying unconscious on the street."

A communique issued by some 20 Ecuadoran human rights and church organizations stresses that "this attack is an attempt to stop the work being done to denounce the violations being committed in Ecuador and to frighten human rights organizations because of these organization's actions in the defense of the victims of institutional violence."

Red Sun Claims Responsibility for Attack

PA2805193094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1517 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Quito, 28 May (EFE)—The Maoist group "Inti Puka" ("Red Sun" in Quechua) that is similar to the Peruvian terrorist Shining Path movement claimed responsibility on Saturday, 28 May, for the attack on an energy tower that left the water processing plant that supplies half the city of Quito without electricity.

In anonymous telephone calls to local radio stations, persons who claimed to belong to the "Red Sun" said the attack is to protest the privatization plan implemented by the government of conservative Sixto Duran-Ballen.

The attack, with three dynamite charges, downed an energy tower in the outskirts of this city, leaving the

Papallacta water processing plant without electricity. This plant provides water to almost half of Quito's 1.5 million inhabitants.

On several occasions civilian and military authorities have announced the dismantling of the "Red Sun," which has claimed responsibility for tens of bomb attacks in past years. Until now there have been no victims.

"We want to stress that we exist and that we will continue operating clandestinely against the government," one of the alleged terrorists who called the radio stations affirmed.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Promises 'Not To Dissolve Congress'

PY2605222894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1618 GMT
26 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (EFE)—Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy has said: "I will do my utmost not to dissolve Congress." A similar statement was once made by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

Wasmosy made this remark during an exclusive interview with the Buenos Aires newspaper *AMBITO FINANCIERO*. Wasmosy said the Congressional Committee on Illegal Activities "puts its foot in its mouth so often it has totally lost credibility."

The Paraguayan president noted that Fujimori "strengthened democracy" in Peru and expressed hopes that "the Paraguayan people will mature."

Wasmosy said: "Part of the labor movement believes in violence and makes demands they know cannot be granted."

Wasmosy added that the appearance of a guerrilla movement in Mexico and the people's rebellions in Paraguay and Argentina "are part of the same plan."

He said former Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti handled the democratic transition in Uruguay "better" than Raul Alfonsin did in Argentina.

Juan Carlos Wasmosy said the peasant rebellion is part of an ultra-leftist campaign and that the Paraguayan military "have adapted to democracy even though no one wants to admit it."

"We reduced the number of generals from 62 to 38. Congress stripped them even of their food coupons and reduced everything they had," Wasmosy said referring to his policy to reorganize the Armed Forces "without losing the chain of command or discipline."

The Paraguayan president said labor leaders "know" the government "cannot give them a 40 percent salary increase because it would mean 40 percent inflation."

Wasmosy ratified the Paraguayan commitment to the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) which his country is implementing with Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

"There is no path other than integration, unless someone shows me something better," the president stressed, adding that he rejected labor leaders' requests to withdraw from Mercosur.

He added: "This does not mean I will jump into an empty swimming pool and kill my country with me."

Wasmosy said Paraguay supports the coordination of Mercosur member countries' economic policies.

"We must find a way to understand the problems facing Brazilians without ruining Argentine industrialists," Wasmosy added.

The president said that during the Alfonsin administration (1983-1989) "there was a reaction against the Argentine Army" following the repression of guerrillas which resulted in some 9,000 deaths, according to official figures.

"If the military did not do what they did, Alfonsin could not have done what he did, and President (Carlos) Menem could not have consolidated the Argentine economy," Wasmosy stressed.

Admits No 'Power To Dissolve Congress'

PY2705191194 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
27 May 94 p 5

[Text] Concerning a report published by the Argentine publication *AMBITO FINANCIERO*, in which among other things the chief executive notes that he would "do his utmost not to dissolve Congress," President Juan Carlos Wasmosy last night said: "I do not have any power to dissolve Congress."

The chief executive said that his words had been misinterpreted. He emphasized that he does not have the "constitutional power to dissolve Congress." He added that he fully disagrees with any aggression against Congress. Wasmosy pointed out: "This is far from my intention."

The president noted that when he said that "the people must mature" he meant the entire society (government officials, politicians, entrepreneurs, trade union leaders, journalists, and so on) and not specifically Congress. He added that the Paraguayan people are gradually changing their beliefs.

Moving on, the president recognized the activities currently being carried out by congressmen. He described as normal the controversial positions that exist between the executive and legislative branches, bearing in mind the democracy prevailing in our Republic.

President Wasmosy emphasized: "As we pursue the path of democracy, all of us are growing up." He claimed that

it is normal to make mistakes. The president emphasized that he trusts these mistakes will be corrected in favor of most Paraguayan people.

Laino Does Not Believe in Dissolution of Congress

President Wasmosy last night received the European Union's Silver ECU, delivered by Franco Teucci, the European Union's representative in our country, to mark the Day of Europe. During the award ceremony Dr. Domingo Laino, of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, ruled out the possibility of a break in the democratic process.

Laino pointed out: "I am not really acquainted with the remarks, but I do not see why he should worry about Congress, because Congress is not seeking to destabilize; quite to the contrary, Congress is trying to stabilize democracy."

Laino emphasized: "A group within the Colorado Party has maximalist and fundamentalist attitudes. I believe the destabilizing trend involves this group. I believe the opposition, Congress, and other segments outside the ruling party are demonstrating a very mature and very thoughtful attitude."

Explains Remarks to Congress President

PY2705200394 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy has sent a letter to Congress President Evelio Fernandez Arevalos explaining the real meaning of his remarks to an Argentine newspaper with respect to the dissolution of Congress.

The president has just sent a note to Fernandez saying that the declarations appearing in newspapers saying that he would do his utmost not to dissolve Congress do not reflect what he honestly thinks.

Asked about the matter, Senator Evelio Fernandez Arevalo said he was satisfied with the president's explanation:

[Begin recording] The note has persuaded me. I think, as I said before, there has been a mistake in the way he expressed himself or in the transcription of his remarks. I could not imagine the president experiencing an internal struggle to prevent the dissolution of Congress. I said earlier that I could not conceive of anyone having a hidden agenda to provoke such a negative thing.

The note that the president had the deference to send me, I must admit, puts things in the right perspective. I think we must consider the episode closed. [end recording]

Lower House President on Dissolving Congress

PY2705222594 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
27 May 94 p 4

[Text] Chamber of Deputies President Francisco Jose de Vargas noted that if it is true that President Juan Carlos Wasmosy made remarks [on the possible dissolution of Congress], it would demonstrate that he is unaware of the Constitution "because he cannot dissolve Congress, only through a coup d'etat."

The PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] congressman emphasized that Wasmosy does not have the slightest possibility of constitutionally dissolving Congress, and he therefore "must understand that he can dissolve it through a coup d'etat alone, thus violating the Constitution."

De Vargas warned the chief executive that if he carries out his threat, he must be aware of the fact that he will challenge the Paraguayan people. De Vargas noted: "As we challenged [former dictator General Alfredo] Stroessner with all our strength, with thousands of comrades killed and hundreds of thousands of comrades deported and tortured, he must be aware of the fact that we will challenge him with the same strength and determination with which we challenged Stroessner, if he decides to become a dictator through a coup d'etat."

De Vargas noted that the citizens have changed their attitude and that over the past five years citizens have become used to freedom, the right to assemble, and the right to demonstrate. De Vargas pointed out: "Therefore, the chief executive must assess all these facts very thoroughly before daring to make a decision, but if he wants to make a decision, he is free to make the decision he wants."

Among other things, the lower house president expressed his surprise over Wasmosy's remarks "because I consider him too intelligent and well-educated a man to make those remarks."

Wasmosy Interviewed by Argentine Paper

PY2705183494 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
27 May 94 pp 8-9

["Transcription of the text" of an interview with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy by unidentified reporter; place and date not given; published in the 26 May edition of the Buenos Aires newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO]

[Text] [AMBITO FINANCIERO] There is a lot of criticism against your administration in the newspapers. You seem to be concerned about what they say.

[Wasmosy] Today a social communicator has much more power than a minister. So much so that if a bad communicator says something silly, people tend to believe what he said, even when you prove it is nonsense and untrue. Today the so-called fourth power plays an

essential role in the process to consolidate democracy. Of course, it is a process to form a conscience and mature. We must all learn, including those who own those key means of communications.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] It is surprising to see how much the media has changed since Alfredo Stroessner's times.

[Wasmosy] Just think that in the past we used to read the newspaper from back to front. Influential journalists, in fact the only ones around, were those who specialized in soccer or other sports. Now everything has changed, although in some aspects everything is being exaggerated. Every front page is full of reports on scandals, corruption; nothing constructive. We have the impression that we live in chaos. But you have seen that is not the case. Nothing happens in the streets. There is no violence. People work in cities and rural areas. We have problems, of course, but not to the degree stressed by the press.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Do you think there are special reasons or interests behind that exaggeration?

[Wasmosy] In general terms, I can say that the campaign has intensified since the Sao Paulo Forum meeting (international leftist leaders meeting). Many people will be in trouble if democracy consolidates, as the country will grow and they will no longer be able to live as if the country were a ranch. The same thing will happen with other nations that think it convenient to keep us as suppliers of raw materials.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] I see that you maintain a nationalist spirit, something traditional in Paraguay.

[Wasmosy] Look, this is personal, a very personal opinion. There are two strong institutions in this country turning nationalism into something very strong: the Church and the Army. This is why they are so often attacked. On one hand we have all these tents and protest movements that are separating the Church from its evangelical and pastoral mission, and pressuring it to enter the political arena in the name of a liberation theory. Many people are involved in this campaign. We must be careful because it does not affect only us.

But I do not want to speak about other countries, as a matter of respect. In other places these forces have also tried to divide the Army, but they failed despite all their efforts. The Armed Forces are being reorganized, without losing respect for the chain of command or discipline. We are giving it the human dimension required. The Armed Forces not only respect me, they even like me.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] They will surely love you if you maintain or increase their budget.

[Wasmosy] Look, I will contradict you. The number of generals was reduced from 62 to 38, and Congress stripped them of even their food coupons and reduced everything they had. They have adapted. I must be

honest and say this because no one else admits it in this country. We face other risks. Those crying out on behalf of the ecology are people coming from industrialized countries, people who have destroyed everything. They try to use our Indians—we have 17 ethnic groups in Paraguay—as a mechanism to divide us and destroy the country's unity. They do everything to us. They overwhelm us. They seem to forget that democracy cannot exist without bread, and that it is very expensive.

Just look at the issue of drugs. We are being pressured because it is said that our country is being used for the transit of drugs. I say: Send helicopters, radars, and even personnel to control the traffic, but if consumption is not curtailed production, will never drop. We must be honest and accept that the principle of supply and demand does not exist for certain items alone.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] The economy is becoming global. Do you not think that violence might also become global? And I cite the case of Chiapas, in Mexico, as an example.

[Wasmosy] Chiapas, Santiago del Estero [Argentina], San Pedro in Paraguay, etc. Everything is part of a single plan. Proof of that is that part of the labor movement believes in violence and asks for things they know cannot be granted: a 40 percent salary increase, withdrawal from Mercosur [Common Market of the South], an urgent employment policy, etc. It is very easy to ask. I would like to ask an entrepreneur who tried to become president and who supported the strike [referring to National Encounter's Guillermo Caballero Vargas]: If he agrees with the strike's motives, why does he not grant a 40 percent salary increase to his own employees? Because you must be consistent and do what you say should be done. About the demand to withdraw from Mercosur, I say as president, because I have also been integration minister, that I will not integrate the country if integration will not benefit our country. But I am convinced there is no other path than integration, unless someone shows me something better.

That does not mean I will jump into an empty swimming pool and kill my country with me. There are different ways to integrate. How can you ask for a 40 percent increase if that means 40 percent inflation? In Mercosur we are calling for coordination of macroeconomic policies. Then, gentlemen, we must find a way to understand the problem facing Brazilians without ruining Argentine industrialists. I do not have the instruments to implement our government programs, but what can I do? We have an obsolete Penal Code and Code of Proceedings while banks raise interest rates. We cannot retol our industries with 36 percent or 42 percent interest rates. But what is the problem?

The problem is that I cannot tighten the screws because of the Central Bank Law and the Banks Law approved in 1952. We must update all those mechanisms. We have a new Constitution, and we must adapt those laws to the new Constitution and update them. We are developing

an economy that is not directed or controlled by the state. Do you realize that? This is why I say that democracy is nice, expensive, and demands a lot of maturity.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Your reflections stress items that have affected many transition governments on their path from a dictatorial to a democratic system.

[Wasmosy] I would not blame the system that much. It is very difficult for an obedient society to become an intelligent society. Our people are used to being directed. They are used to asking the boss what he thinks, and then just following him.

We must force each individual to think on his own, to have his own opinion. But that will require time and maturity. Here is where I think we must be firm in staying on course and maintaining our objectives.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Is everything against you, then?

[Wasmosy] Obviously. Media sources have not trained their people. Who exactly are most journalists?

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Perhaps you are confused about that.

[Wasmosy] Very well. It is possible.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Do you know what I notice? It seems that you cannot govern, as was the case with Fujimori at one time.

[Wasmosy] I tell you that I will do everything in my power to avoid dissolving Congress; I have confidence in people.... I am confident that they will mature. What happened to the Senate Investigative Commission on Illegal Activities? They put their foot in it so many times that they have lost all credibility.

As for unions, their strikes have failed. Who else will believe in them? They have to justify the money they receive from abroad. We.... No other president has done what I did: sponsor a round table, a Social Development Council where everyone is heard. But they withdrew. Why? The peasants came and raised their problems: They were given a solution, which was welcomed "with applause." And they are satisfied.

Transport workers called for a strike. We told them: Gentlemen, if you disagree, please bring another proposal to resolve the problem between transport enterprises and their employees. But they failed to show up at three consecutive sessions of the Council. Why? They wanted the strike. We arranged an agreement between employees and employers through the justice and labor ministry, but they once again reacted. Because what they wanted was to promote destabilization.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Going back to the subject of foreign models, you have already said that you would not like your government to look like "the Fujimori experience."

[Wasmosy] Yet it should be noted that I respect his experience, because what Fujimori did was to strengthen democracy.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] If we consider other less traumatic models, if you consider the Argentine transition with Raul Alfonsin, and the Uruguayan transition with Julio Maria Sanguinetti, which one do you think was better?

[Wasmosy] Sanguinetti, Sanguinetti!

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Can you explain your reasons?

[Wasmosy] I want to tell you that in the case of Dr. Alfonsin, for example, there was a reaction against the Army. I wonder, had the Army failed to do what it did—and I am not supporting abuses, because I am neither a terrorist nor a dictator, no, no. I tell you, I have always seen the press reporting, for example: The Army has committed such and such an abuse.

And the people who killed the police chief's daughters, who have blown up cars, who have killed people, are they all good-natured people? Somebody therefore had to come out the winner, and with civic courage the Argentine Army brought peace. Dr. Alfonsin then completed the other institutions. But if the military had not done what they did, Alfonsin would not have been able to do what he did, and Menem would not have been able to consolidate the economy as he did. They could do it because other people resolved the problems of the other areas of government.

[AMBITO FINANCIERO] Getting away from politics, the point is how to incorporate the informal economy into the transition system.

[Wasmosy] The informal sector will be legalized only when inflation in Paraguay and in neighboring countries reaches more or less the same level, or similar levels. And when taxes on domestic consumption are also put more or less at the same level. What happens with cigarettes? Brazil produces cigarettes, imposing a 386 percent tax on them. But if Brazil exports them, I believe the tax is 0 percent. What is the result of this? When they export cigarettes to Paraguay, they send only the documents. Just imagine, in Paraguay we have a tax of only 26 percent.

Cigarette exporters therefore put the Brazilian product in Ciudad del Este, Capitan Bado, Pedro Juan Caballero, everywhere. The Brazilians who come to see the Iguazu waterfalls pay 500 guaranies for cigarettes that cost 1,500 guaranies in Brazil. Do you know how many people enter Ciudad del Este per day? From Iguazu (Argentina) and

Foz do Iguacu (Brazil), 200,000 people. If each one of them buys 10 packages.... I leave the calculations up to you.

Military Political Affiliation Law Signed

PY3005224294 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
28 May 94 p 3

[Text] The president's decision to sign the law temporarily suspending the affiliation to political parties of active duty members of the military and policemen was made known at Congress at noon yesterday. The law thus enters into effect immediately.

In congressional circles, the executive branch's decision to promulgate the law a few days before it became effective automatically, according to the term stipulated by the Constitution, was interpreted as a positive gesture, and a sign of the president's willingness to respect congressional decisions. The executive branch had until 1 June to promulgate the bill.

The law that has just entered into effect has only two articles, and says:

"Article 1. The membership of active duty members of the military and policemen in political parties or movements is hereby temporarily suspended, and political parties or movements will erase their names from the party lists."

"Article 2. The active duty members of the military and policemen mentioned in Article 1 will recover, at their request, their full membership and seniority in the corresponding political party or movement once they retire."

Hurdles Still To Be Overcome

Congress passed the bill temporarily suspending military members' and policemen's political membership in November of last year, but the executive branch vetoed the bill.

The veto was based on a technicality, as the executive branch said it had agreed on the need to adjust the military and police field of action to what is prescribed in the Constitution. The objection referred to the wording of the bill, which was allegedly imprecise. The executive also objected to the requirement forcing military members and policemen to request their reenlistment once they retired, as it believed the reenlisting should be automatic. Congress dismissed these arguments and overrode the veto. The law could still face a hurdle before implementation, as those who feel affected might file a petition asking that the law be declared unconstitutional.

Military To Obey Law

PY3005231294 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
28 May 94 p 9

[Text] Asked if the executive branch has issued instructions to military commanders on the issue of the temporary suspension of their membership in political parties, Colonel Carlos Medina Monjagata, director of the Military Forces' Social Communications Center, said that the military are expecting a decision by Commander in Chief Juan Carlos Wasmosy on the matter.

Medina said there will be no institutional reaction on the issue until the executive branch promulgates the bill and the commander in chief decides what to do about it.

Medina reiterated, however, that the Armed Forces will obey this and all other legal dispositions on the matter.

The colonel said that the Constitution forbids the military from participating in partisan politics, and therefore absolutely nothing will occur if the law is approved.

Troop Mobilization

Col. Medina announced that the 1st Infantry Division will mobilize to travel to Potrero del Carmen, Itacurubi de la Coruillera, at 0700 on 30 May. Medina said the unit will conduct a tactical demonstration for Army Officers Advanced Training School (EPOE) students.

The exercise is in cooperation with Army officers' training.

Brigade General Carlos Alberto Ayala is the current commander of the 1st Infantry Division.

Changes in Air Force

On 26 May PAM [Air Force Pilot] Colonel Alejandro Roman was appointed commander of the Air Force Logistics Brigade. Roman is an experienced pilot. Last year he took advanced training courses in Taiwan at the invitation of that country's Armed Forces.

On 23 May Brigade General Hector Ocampos Diaz took over as Air Force chief of staff, replacing General Cesar Cramer, who was appointed defense vice minister.

On the occasion Colonel Livio Espinoza took over as commander of the 1st Air Brigade, replacing Ocampos Diaz.

Uruguay's Abreu Signs Pact on Stolen Cars

PY2605151994 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
26 May 94 p 14

[Text] According to a joint declaration signed by Foreign Ministers Luis Maria Ramirez Boettner and Sergio Abreu Bonilla yesterday afternoon, Paraguay and Uruguay have begun to negotiate an agreement, which should be signed as soon as possible, establishing the two countries' reciprocal assistance in recovering stolen cars. The signing of this document will contribute to

repressing this illegal activity, and will help speed up the process of returning stolen cars.

The joint declaration was signed at the Foreign Ministry. It was the Uruguayan foreign minister's last official activity in Paraguay. Abreu is scheduled to return to his country this morning after a three-day official stay in our country.

In the joint declaration the foreign ministers also recognized the increase in the consumption rate and illegal trade in narcotics, which constitutes a grave threat to our peoples' health and well-being and obligates all nations to share in the responsibility of repressing it.

The ministers ratified the importance for the two countries—in the context of the Parana-Paraguay waterway—of the work to eliminate existing obstacles to the effective use of port facilities granted to Paraguay in Montevideo and Nueva Palmira. Port authorities and operators from the two countries will meet in Montevideo during the second half of July.

The Uruguayan foreign minister returns to his country on a private plane at 0900 this morning.

Foreign Debt Down 1.4 Percent From 1993

PY2605233894

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish on 17 May publishes on page 20 an unattributed 300-word article on the Paraguayan foreign debt's current standing. The article says: "According to an official report by the Technical Planning Secretariat, Paraguay's foreign debt totaled \$1.2316 billion during the first quarter of 1994, which represents a 1.4 percent reduction compared with the first quarter of 1993."

Peru

Amendment Causing President To Step Down Before Election Rejected

PY3105033494 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Based on the contention that the time that has elapsed since the implementation of the Constitution has not been sufficient to warrant its amendment, the Constitutional Committee of the Peruvian Constituent Congress tonight decided to turn down a petition to amend the Constitution, including a proposal that would cause President Alberto Fujimori to step down six months before the election date in order for him to be eligible to seek his reelection. The decision provoked protest within the opposition.

In justifying the decision, Congressman Carlos Ferrero Costa said that only five months have elapsed since the implementation of the Constitution.

[Begin Ferrero recording] In the first place, the president may step down whether a constitutional reform is

approved or not. No constitutional reform is needed for the president to step down. Secondly, nowhere in the world is the incumbent president required to step down in order to seek his reelection. [end recording]

Congress Approves Fujimori's Trip Abroad

PY3005205694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0301 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Lima, 27 May (EFE)—Congressional sources have reported that the Peruvian Congress today authorized the journey by President Alberto Fujimori to the Fourth Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), and to Japan and the PRC.

In a full session the Democratic Constituent Congress (CCD) today approved President Fujimori's trip abroad: from 14 to 16 June to the Ibero-American summit, and from 2 to 13 June to Japan and the PRC.

The visit to Japan will begin on 5 June, while he will be in the PRC from 8 to 12 June.

Congressional authorization for the president's trips abroad is a requirement established by the Constitution.

Minister Camet Signs Letter of Intent With IMF

PY3005173294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0154 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpt] Lima, 29 May (EFE)—Peruvian Economy and Finance Minister Jorge Camet and German Suarez, president of the Central Reserve Bank, today signed the letter of intent with the IMF, as was announced by President Alberto Fujimori on Saturday, 28 May.

The letter of intent, listing the economic targets Peru intends to attain during 1994, will be submitted for approval to the IMF management. [passage omitted]

Businessmen Criticize Letter of Intent

PY2705125894 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 May 94 p 4

[Text] In a statement on the letter of intent the Peruvian Government is to sign with the IMF, the National Confederation of Businessmen [Conaco] charged that the government has become dependent on the IMF.

Conaco contends that in light of its dependence, the government has pushed its commitment to pay the foreign debt to the limit, thus postponing every serious attempt at reactivating the economy to improve the people's standard of living through a massive program and fair salaries, as well as an equitable distribution of wealth.

Conaco hopes that there may still be time "to replace these evil intentions" with good ones that would meet the Peruvian people's just aspirations for a better future.

The statement notes that Conaco has unsuccessfully recommended that the government introduce a number of corrective measures into its economic stabilization program.

Conaco adds that the letter of intent reveals that the Minimum Income Tax will be maintained, that no new tax stabilization contracts will be signed, that no new free trade zones will be created, that the prices of fuels and public utilities will be increased, that Sunat [National Tax Administration Superintendency] will tighten its control of taxpayers, and so forth.

The statement adds that the government is using only \$250 million of its privatization proceeds in social investments, and that part of these resources are instead being used to pay the foreign debt.

Similarly, Conaco adds, the government will consolidate all of its custom tariffs at 15 percent in 1995, and will further increase its foreign debt by financing programs to restructure the current debt.

Conaco states that the government insists on maintaining a rigid concept in its economic stabilization program, which is precisely the pivotal cause of the current recessive economic process "that brings about extreme poverty and unemployment."

The statement notes that Conaco has requested the elimination of the Minimum Income Tax because this is an across the board tax that affects 2 percent of company assets.

Conaco has also unsuccessfully demanded the reduction of the General Sales Tax and the Selective Consumers Tax as major steps toward reversing the shrinking of the market and boosting domestic production.

Guzman Video Helps in Arrest of SL's 'No. 2'

*PY2805032894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1509 GMT
27 May 94*

[Excerpts] Lima, 27 May (EFE)—The video showing Shining Path [SL] leader Abimael Guzman, which police seized in 1991, still is delivering mortal blows to the movement: It has helped capture the current Shining Path "No. 2" leader, Felipe Tenorio.

In February 1991, police found a videocassette in a Lima house supposedly used as Guzman's hideout. In the video, Guzman could be seen imitating the dance shown in the film "Zorba, the Greek."

The video also showed the main Shining Path leaders close to Guzman. Among them was Felipe Tenorio Barbaran, aka "Augusto," who also was dancing with his chief, "President Gonzalo" as he is addressed by his followers.

On 26 May, Peruvian police publicly presented Tenorio to the country dressed in the striped uniform worn by arrested terrorists. Tenorio probably will be sentenced to life imprisonment.

According to police, "Augusto" was the "No. 2" man in the new Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party, which is the real name of the Maoist terrorist group. "Augusto" is second only to Oscar Ramirez Durand, aka "Feliciano," who is the current Shining Path leader.

"Feliciano" has been trying to reorganize the terrorist group since Abimael Guzman's arrest in Lima on 12 September 1992. Guzman was later sentenced to life imprisonment.

"Feliciano" has bluntly rejected Guzman's proposal to the Peruvian Government calling for a peace accord as well as his orders to suspend attacks and murders. [passage omitted]

As in Guzman's case, "Augusto" was arrested at a house in Los Olivos District, Lima, without having the chance to shoot a single shot. He had been one of terrorists most wanted by the National Counterterrorism Directorate (Dincote). [passage omitted]

OAS Report on Ex-President Garcia Protested

*PY2705140394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1955 GMT
26 May 94*

[Text] Lima, 26 May (EFE)—The Peruvian Government has expressed "its surprise and concern" to the OAS over the publication of a secret Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC) report on former President Alan Garcia's case.

Reports from Washington state that in the report the IAHRC reportedly rules against the Peruvian Government in the case Alan Garcia raised against the Alberto Fujimori administration for "illegal harassment and trial."

In an official communique issued today in Lima, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry states that both Peru and the IAHRC "are barred from divulging or disclosing the IAHRC's preliminary report in compliance with pertinent regulations."

The communique adds that the Peruvian Government deprecates the disclosure of this report because "it undermines the confidentiality" which, according to the Human Rights Convention of the Americas, must prevail in the preliminary stage.

The Foreign Ministry also expresses "its surprise and concern" over the incident, which it believes may affect "a just analysis of pending issues to be assessed by the IAHRC."

The Foreign Ministry communique asserts that the IAHRC has issued a preliminary report and that this organization "does not issue rulings or pass sentences at this or at any other level."

It adds that what was disclosed concerning the case involving the former Peruvian president "does not interfere in the investigations or in the judicial proceedings" to which Alan Garcia must respond in Peru.

Garcia has several trials pending in Peru for the alleged illegal possession of guns and misappropriation of funds while in public office.

Reports from Washington state that the IAHRC has established that the "the Peruvian Government is responsible for violating the right to personal safety and freedom of Alan Garcia Perez and his wife, and the right to personal protection conferred upon his children by the Human Rights Convention of the Americas."

Garcia also sued the Peruvian Government before the IAHRC for a raid on his private residence that the military conducted on 5 April 1992. On this date, President Alberto Fujimori perpetrated a coup d'etat as a result of which he closed Congress, dismantled the judiciary, and assumed complete power with the support of the military.

Venezuela

Planning Minister Enzo del Bufalo Resigns

PA2705185194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1613 GMT
27 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 27 May (EFE)—Enzo del Bufalo, minister of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning, today resigned in what appears to be the beginning of a crisis in Rafael Caldera's government.

Del Bufalo has become the first minister of Caldera's government to resign from his post in the 114 days of the current administration. Nevertheless, it has been pointed out that in the coming hours other officials will leave the cabinet team.

Christian Democrat Caldera is preparing to make important changes in his government team, which in the eyes of his political adversaries, has offered an image of contradictions with regard to his policies, particularly in the economic field. The changes, it appears, are an attempt to realize his government, which appears trapped between the severity of the crisis and social demands.

Today, the Venezuelan press points out that all the ministers will place their posts at the president's disposal, thus making it easier for Caldera, who assumed power on 2 February, to make the changes he may deem necessary.

The opposition has accused Caldera of offering a contradictory image with regard to the policies that he insists

on applying, and his ministers have found themselves in seriously contradictory positions. Nevertheless, it is a tradition of the old-time politician, who already governed Venezuela between 1969-74, to make his decisions under total secrecy until he decides to inform the nation, such as when he designated his cabinet a few hours before assuming the presidency.

The departure of Transport and Communication Minister Cesar Quintini has been reported by the Venezuelan media as a fact, although he has denied his resignation. Quintini is accused of maintaining a tolerant attitude with regard to corruption in his ministry.

Rafael Irribarren, deputy minister of transport and communication, resigned one month ago from his post after accusing Quintini of obstructing his efforts to dismantle the complex network of corruption that functions in that ministry. Irribarren charged that in his ministry, licenses, permits, and other official documents are sold and that commission fees are charged for granting concessions.

Local political sources claim that Quintini's continued presence in his post has created serious doubts about Caldera's will to struggle against corruption, one of the electoral banners that took him to the presidency. Other ministers are unhappy because they believe they have not received the support they need for a successful start to their duties.

In almost four months of government, Caldera has had to face a grave economic crisis, with a fiscal deficit of more than \$4.5 billion. The devaluation of the bolivar has become a pressing problem for Caldera. The dollar, which at the beginning of the month had been valued at 127.15 bolivares, this past Wednesday was valued at 175.

It appears that Development Minister Luis Carlos Palacios and Agriculture Minister Ciro Fonseca Anez could also leave the government.

Resignations Confirmed; New Cabinet By Monday

PA2805164894 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT
28 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 28 May (AFP)—Today in Caracas, political analysts highlighted the news that President Rafael Caldera's administration, which will be four months in power on 2 June, faces its first crisis due to ministerial disagreement over the course of economic policies.

Government sources confirmed today the resignations of Planning (Cordiplan) Minister Enzo del Bufalo and Transport and Communications Minister Cesar Quintini, and said Caldera is expected to announce his new cabinet by Monday [30 May] at the latest.

According to political observers, Del Bufalo's departure is due to his "conceptual differences" with government economic proposals. Quintini was accused of "not touching the Perez corruption structures (referring to

jailed former president Carlos Andres Perez) that rule the ministry," by his former deputy minister Rafael Iribarren, who resigned. Others who will leave their posts are the ministers for urban development and environment and natural renewable resources.

Central Information Office Chief Guillermo Alvarez Bajares justified the change of ministers arguing that this is not a single party administration and its heterogeneity makes differences understandable. Alvarez denied that the removal of ministers proves the failure of certain policies and he pointed out that the president has the power to modify and restructure his council of ministers at any moment.

The current cabinet, made up of 26 ministers, the federal district government, and the head of the Presidential Committee to Reform the State, had been restructured by Caldera on 31 January, two days before becoming president.

Government Announces New Cabinet Reshuffle

PA2805201294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT
28 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 28 May (EFE)—Today, the Venezuelan Government announced a series of changes in President Rafael Caldera's cabinet. These changes are designed to improve coherence in the government team. According to Guillermo Alvarez, chief of the Central Information Office, the new development minister will be Alberto Poletto, president of the Foreign Trade Institute [ICE]. Poletto will continue to be president of the ICE, and in the future, this office will become the ministry of industry and commerce.

Luis Carlos Palacios, the current development minister, will head the Central Office of Coordination and Planning. Palacios will replace Enzo del Bufalo who, according to the press, resigned because of serious differences with the other members of the economic cabinet.

Ciro Zaa, currently minister of urban development, has been appointed transport and communications minister. Zaa replaces Cesar Quintini who was accused of not being willing to attack the corruption spotted in the department by former Deputy Transport and Communications Minister Rafael Iribarren.

Francisco Gonzalez, currently president of the Urban Development Fund, will replace Ciro Zaa as the new minister of urban development. The Urban Development Fund will shortly come under the Urban Development Ministry.

One of the changes that surprised all the local political observers took place in the Venezuelan Investment Fund, responsible for the privatization process. Abdon Vivas Teran, head of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, has been replaced by Carlos Bernardes, a former president of the Bank of Venezuela, the oldest private bank in Venezuela.

The chief of the Central Information Office also announced that Alfredo Gruber will be the new president of the Venezuelan Guayana Corporation, the most powerful state-run business group. Gruber will replace Francisco Layrisse who, a few days ago, announced that he wishes to return to private practice.

The latest addition to the cabinet, announced today, has been the appointment of Pompeyo Marquez, currently a minister without portfolio, as coordinator for the government's social programs. The new members of the cabinet will be sworn in on Monday [30 May] and will start to work immediately, Alvarez said.

Further on Cabinet Changes

PA2905033794 Caracas Union Radio Network in
Spanish 0227 GMT 29 May 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from the "Union Radio News" newscast; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...the Investment Fund of Venezuela [FIV] and former Bank of Venezuela President Carlos Bernardes Losada was appointed to the post. Observers believe President Caldera's decision to remove FIV President Abdon Vivas Teran was prompted by the way he handled Aeropostal's privatization, which was considered a failure because the bid was declared invalid.

It is also said the decision was prompted by the rejection of Air Force Commander General Otto Garcia Rivara, who reportedly objected to the fact that one of the enterprises participating in the bid was a Colombian airline. He believes Aeropostal is a strategic Venezuelan company, and one must take into account the border problems we have with our neighbor.

OCI [Central Information Office] chief Guillermo Alvarez explained that Abdon Vivas Teran will remain in the government even though he has left the FIV. This means he will possibly be appointed to another post in the ministerial cabinet.

[Begin recording] [Alvarez] I cannot report new changes. These are the ones the president authorized us to announce today.

[Briceno] Does this mean Mr. Abdon Vivas Teran is now out of the government?

[Alvarez] He is obviously out of the post he held. This does not mean he is out of the government. [end recording]

Alvarez announced Alberto Poletto will still be in charge of the Foreign Trade Institute [ICE]. This situation might propitiate a merger of the ICE and the Development Ministry, which would become the industry and commerce ministry.

Ciro Zaa Alvarez has been appointed to the MTC [Ministry of Transportation and Communications]. Zaa was formerly in charge of the Urban Development

Ministry and Francisco Gonzalez, current president of the Urban Development Fund, was temporarily appointed to the post. President Caldera's plans include the unification of these infrastructure ministries.

Luis Carlos Palacios has been appointed to the Central Office of Coordination and Planning, replacing Enzo del Bufalo, who tendered his official resignation to the head of state. Another appointment made by President Caldera was that of Alfredo Gruber, current president of Palmaven in the Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation who will be in charge of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana.

To conclude, Pompeyo Marquez has been given responsibility for coordinating the government's social programs. The new ministers will be sworn in by President Caldera on Monday [30 May] at Miraflores Palace.

Caldera Changes Cabinet In Midst of Crisis

PA3005222094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1956 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 30 May (EFE)—Today, Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera carried out his first cabinet change, only 117 days after the start of his government and in the midst of a profound economic crisis.

Caldera, who assumed the presidency on 2 February, appointed Alberto Poletto, Luis Carlos Palacios, Ciro Zaa, and Carlos Bernandez as ministers of Development, Central Office of Coordination and Planning [Cordiplan], Transport and Communication, and Venezuelan Investment Fund, respectively.

Caldera's restructuring of his cabinet has been interpreted by local political experts as a sign that the president is prepared to make a switch to an economic policy less populist than the one he proposed during the elections campaign and closer to the neoliberal policy implemented by former president Carlos Andres Perez.

Apparently, Caldera, who was one of the most severe critics of the free market policy promoted by Perez, has been unable to structure an economic formula out of the neoliberal guidelines.

Venezuela is living through a difficult economic situation, with a fiscal deficit estimated at more than \$4.5 billion, a severe depreciation of the bolivar, and an explosive social situation fueled by a significant fall in the purchasing power of the people.

President Caldera put Carlos Bernandez at the head of the organization in charge of privatizing state enterprises. Bernandez has always been linked to the local banking sector and he has been president of the Bank of Venezuela, which is one of the most important banks in the country. Bernandez has offered to increase the privatization process. The local media has described his appointment as a victory for the financial sector, which was able to produce the departure of Abdon Vivas Teran, a politician very close to Caldera and to his electoral

offer for an economy with a human face, from the Venezuela Investment Fund.

Luis Carlos Palacios, the new Cordiplan minister, replaces Enzo del Bufalo, a dissonant voice in Caldera's economic team. The new minister is closer to the free economy concepts that the Caldera administration apparently wants to adopt in this new phase.

Also, Alberto Poletto, president of the Foreign Trade Institute, will be development minister, which joins these departments to create the Industry and Commerce Ministry.

Ciro Zaa has been virtually forced to leave the Urban Development Ministry to take over the Transport and Communication Ministry vacated by Cesar Quintini, who was accused of maintaining an attitude of tolerance in multiple cases of corruption in his ministry.

Zaa will be replaced by Francisco Gonzalez, former president of the Urban Development fund. The responsibilities of Special Affairs Minister Pompeyo Marquez have been expanded and from now on he will also be responsible for the government's social programs.

OCI Chief: Government Wants To Merge Ministries

PA3005011994 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2254 GMT 29 May 94

[Report by Vicente Bricente from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] OCI [Central Information Office] Chief Guillermo Alvarez Bajares says the national government's immediate priority is to send a bill to modify the Central Administration Law to the legislature so that several ministries can be merged.

The executive branch wants to merge several ministries, among them the Development Ministry and the Foreign Trade Institute which would become the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Meanwhile, the Urban Development Ministry would be merged with the National Urban Development Fund to form the Infrastructure Ministry.

Alvarez Bajares explained that the Central Administration Law establishes how ministries are divided, and will require that a reform bill be sent immediately to parliament.

[Begin Alvarez Bajares recording] The deadline is as soon as possible. This does not mean we will be working on this on Monday or Tuesday, but we will do so as soon as possible. President Caldera discussed this several times during his electoral campaign and he is now implementing these corrective measures. [end recording]

Alvarez Bajares said that regardless of who wins the presidential elections in Colombia, Venezuela will pursue relations with the neighboring country in the

truly positive manner in which they have been pursued so far, but in accordance with the integration process established by both governments.

Perez Expelled From Democratic Action Party

PA2705194094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 May 94

[Report by Maria Lilibeth Dacorte in the Caraballeda Parish; from the "Union Radio News" newscast; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...after the meeting, the secretary general of the Democratic Action Party, Luis Alfaro Ucero, officially announced that Carlos Andres Perez, twice nominated and elected president of the Republic, had been expelled from the party.

[Begin recording] [Alfaro Ucero] After meeting at length with many party members, [words indistinct] more than 80 percent of those attending the meeting voted to support the decision adopted by the National Executive Committee [CEN]. You know what the CEN had decided. The other...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] he has been definitely expelled from the party?

[Alfaro Ucero] Yes. I ratified the decision made by the CEN regarding Carlos Andres Perez. The other decision made by the CEN—this decision was read at this meeting and it was signed by all the secretaries general [words indistinct]—was to give ample and solid support to the secretary general and organization secretary.

[Reporter] Claudio Fermin and [words indistinct] charged that no one voted on this decision. Please explain this to us.

[Alfaro Ucero] That depends on how you view this. It depends on how one wishes to present to the public the way the meeting was conducted. [end recording]

AD Secretary General Alfaro Ucero denied there is division within the party, and he said the party is being strengthened. He said decisions such as this one are normal within the party. According to Alfaro Ucero, time will decide which path the party should take.

As expected, Alfaro supporters and Perez supporters gauged their strength within the CEN, and, judging from the outcome, it is obvious that the Alfaro supporters had a majority of votes. According to Claudio Fermin, the rank and file do not support this decision.

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